The Literary Digest

A WEEKLY COMPENDIUM OF THE CONTEMPORANEOUS THOUGHT OF THE WORLD

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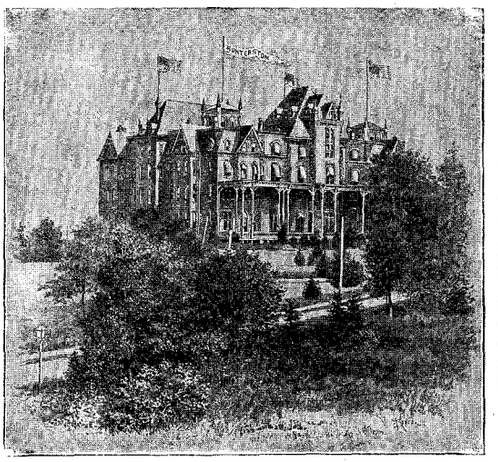

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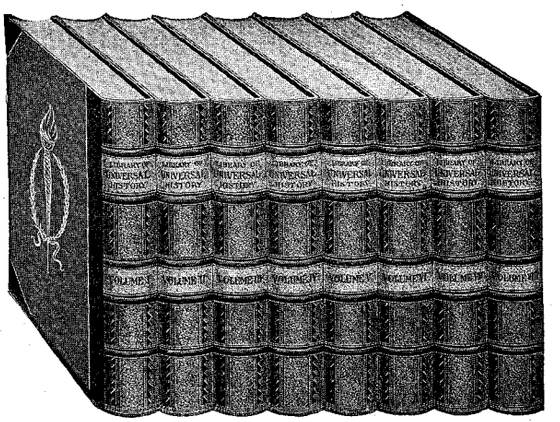

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

LYNCHING WHITE MEN FOR ROBBERY.

THE apparently increasing tendency to resort to lynch-law for all sorts of crime is again loudly condemned by the press of the country, in view of the lynching of five men, accused of burglary, by citizens of Ripley county, Indiana. It is reported that the county had been terrorized for some time by a gang which did not hesitate to torture victims in order to secure valuables, and the arrests that had been made were ineffectual. Upon information from a confederate of the gang under suspicion the sheriff and his deputies caught one man in the act of robbing a store. He and his pals exchanged shots with the sheriff's posse, a number being wounded on both sides. Subsequently four arrests were made, including the owner of a buggy used by the robbers and a man at whose house it was said the robbery had been planned. The grand jury brought in several indictments and the four men were placed in the county jail at Versailles, an isolated town of about eight hundred inhabitants, where a mob overawed the acting sheriff in the middle of the night, shot two of the prisoners who resisted, and, taking along a fifth prisoner who had been incarcerated for robbing a barber-shop the week before, strung up the five bodies on a tree in the center of the public square. Governor Mount declares that "such lawlessness is intolerable, and all the power of the State, if necessary, will be vigorously employed for the arrest and punishment of the parties implicated."

Glaring Defects in Criminal Jurisprudence.—"We wish to do no injustice to the citizens of Ripley county. There have been many things to provoke them. They have suffered many depredations, and the courts have seemed powerless to maintain order. The lawyers, true to their custom of doing everything possible to save their clients, have delayed justice until the people have begun to wonder whether their lives and property could be protected by the usual agencies. Only a little while ago, an old man and his wife, living in the southern part of the State, were tortured in the most brutal way by robbers, for the purpose of compelling them to disclose where their money was hid.

"But all these excuses, unfortunately, only serve to show how uncivilized we are. It is not pleasant to think that there is a county in Indiana in which life and property are not safe under the protection of the law. We can be at least as severe with ourselves as we are with the Southern lynchers. There has hardly been a lynching in a Southern State in ten years for which there was not a better excuse than can be pleaded in behalf of that which will for ever blacken the history of Ripley county and the fair name of Indiana. Indeed, such occurrences as this ought to open the eyes of all of us to the glaring defects in our criminal jurisprudence. Our whole system is constructed on the theory that it is the duty of society to make it as difficult as possible to convict criminals."—*The News* (*Nat. Dem.*), *Indianapolis, Ind.*

No Excuse for It.—"Had the men who were lynched been guilty of grave crime the offense might be in a measure overlooked, for human passion will not tolerate everything. But there was not the miserable excuse of murder, outrage of women, or anything but robbery, a thing that the courts everywhere have always been acknowledged able to deal with satisfactorily. In all the annals of lynch law there is nothing North or South to surpass this deed of fiendish violence, for no act of such magnitude ever followed a crime so trivial. No wonder Governor Mount is incensed. And if Indiana is to hold any place whatsoever in the respect of the rest of the Union it must be after every resource of law is exhausted to bring the lynchers to justice. Until Indiana has wiped out her shame it is time for the North to quit talking about the outrages in the South."—*The Times* (*Rep.*), *Pittsburg.*

"The lynching mania, North, South, and West, has been tolerated far too long. It is a crying evil of the time, a disgrace to the American name and fame. Wherever mere suspicion of connection with crime is held as warrant for murder by mob, there honor and justice are trodden under foot, and savagery alone rules. Better no law at all than law set at naught at will of the frenzied lynchers."—*The Globe* (*Rep.*), *Boston.*

Not a Chance Revival of Lawlessness.—"Once more the State of Indiana is disgraced by the lawlessness of people who break the law for the purpose of punishing law-breaking. There is something noteworthy in the extraordinary revival of this sort of crime in Indiana within the last few months. It is not mere chance. The conclusion can not be avoided that it is largely due to the fact becoming notorious that we have a flabby, weak-kneed executive, who has not the courage or the nerve to insist on the enforcement of the laws. If the first whitecap outrage had been sternly rebuked, and an earnest effort had been made to bring the perpetrators to justice, this class of lawless people would have understood that there was a man at the helm who knew his duty, and would perform it. . . .

"It is one of the evils and shame of our political system that in certain counties the officers fail for years to enforce the laws which make life and property secure. It is no secret that scores of men will not return verdicts against murderers either because they fear their vengeance or are in league with them. Under such conditions it is only a question of time when men who have suffered will take the enforcement of the law into their own hands and penalties will be meted out regardless of those written in the revised statutes."—*The Sentinel* (*Dem.*), *Indianapolis.*

Disproportion between Homicides and Hangings.—"It is a horrible affair, as revolting as lawless, but lynching is so common that not many will be greatly stirred by it. . . . It is easier to inveigh against the frightful prevalence of lynching than it is to

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prescribe a cure for it. More men are put to death by mobs in the United States every year than die on the scaffold. The percentage of legal executions to killings for the past ten years has been only 2.20. Not all these killings, numbering over 48,000, were deliberate murders, of course, but the grotesque disproportion between the homicides and hangings gives some measure of the responsibility of the administrators of the law for the popularity of lynching. Where juries and courts do their duty most swiftly and sternly the lyncher is rarest. That fact is eloquent." —*The Journal* (*Dem.*), *New York*.

"The men lynched at Versailles were put to death for robbery, or alleged robbery. In the South their lives would have been safe and the law would have been permitted to take its regular course. They lynch for but one crime down there, and the criminal commits that offense with the knowledge that swift and certain punishment will be meted out to him if he is captured. In some other sections the rights of property are apparently considered more sacred than the virtue of women."—*The Sun* (*Ind.*), *Baltimore*.

WHEAT, BIMETALISM, AND PROSPERITY.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN has made a much-talked-of contribution to current literature on the subject of prosperity and its relation to the money question. Secretary Gage, of the Treasury Department, has replied directly to part of Mr. Bryan's argument, Speaker Reed has replied in a characteristic way by submitting a different diagnosis of the phenomenon called prosperity, and Mr. Dingley has stated his views. We quote from all four authorities. Mr. Bryan, in a signed letter to the New York *World*, said in part:

"The rise in wheat will aid rather than injure the cause of bimetalism. While a few people may be inclined to give an administration credit or blame, as is the case may be, for everything that happens during its existence, every intelligent person reasons from cause to effect. Wheat has risen because the foreign crop has been exceedingly short. Bimetalists contend that the law of supply and demand is universal. They apply it not only to money, but to bullion, both gold and silver, to wheat and to every other article of value. They contend that the exchangeable value of both money and merchandise will be affected by anything which affects either the demand or the supply.

"The American wheat-grower is just now profiting by the almost unprecedented disaster which has overtaken the wheat-growers of India, Europe, and South America. . . . Will the Republican Party pledge itself to use its best efforts to continue the famine abroad as it pledged itself last year to promote international bimetalism?

"The most significant thing about Republicans rejoicing over the rise in wheat is that in admitting the rise to be beneficial they answer the arguments made last fall by the leading advocates of the gold standard and plant themselves on the ground heretofore occupied by bimetalists. We were told last fall that an appreciating dollar was a national blessing, and yet within a year the entire Republican press is in ecstasy because the purchasing power of a dollar has been to some extent decreased. The wage-earners were told last fall that a rise in the price of commodities would be detrimental to them, and yet, behold! how happy the Republican spellbinders are because one great staple—flour—has risen. . . .

"While the Republicans seem to have come over to our position, there is this essential difference between them and the bimetalists: the latter desire to raise all prices to the bimetallic level, and then keep them there by a financial system which will furnish a standard money sufficient in volume to keep pace with the demand for money; the former praise a dear dollar, but grow happy over the cheapening of the dollar in its relation to a few articles. A general rise quickens enterprise for the time being, and the maintaining of the level, when reached, protects business in general, and the producers of wealth in particular, from the disastrous effects of falling prices; a rise in a few articles may bring advantage to those who produce such articles and yet be a detriment to those who are engaged in the production of articles which do not enjoy a corresponding rise. . . .

"What will be the political effect of this temporary advance?

"That it must be adverse to the Republican Party is certain. If any are foolish enough to credit the rise to the new tariff law, to the gold standard, or to 'restored confidence,' the spell will be broken when wheat returns to the level of the last few years. The disappointment will then be the more intense because of the temporary delusion, and the Republican papers which are to-day calling attention to the price of wheat are simply laying up for themselves additional trouble.

"The advocates of bimetalism can rejoice in the rise while it lasts, and when it is over they can contrast the advantages of higher prices, due to an increased volume of money, with the short-lived benefits of a spasmodic rise, due to a famine so distressing as to appeal to the sympathy and charity of the American people. . . .

"If an increase in the volume of money, secured by the exportation of higher wheat, gives cause for rejoicing, is it not evidence that we now have an insufficient quantity?

"If the farmers are constantly reminded of the large increase in the value of this year's crop, will they not be able to calculate their loss the more easily when wheat goes down? . . .

"The law of supply and demand explains the fall in silver as well as the rise in wheat. To what extent the fall in silver may have been accelerated by speculation in silver bullion I can not say. It would be possible for the bears to run the price of silver down to some extent, just as they sometimes lower the price of grain, and it would be much easier to manipulate the silver market because both the demand and supply are more limited than the demand for or supply of grain; but, without considering the effect of speculation, both legislation and circumstances have tended to lessen the price of silver. The action of Japan has lessened the demand for silver, and the United States has not yet made sufficient progress toward international bimetalism to strengthen the market. Added to this the short wheat crop in silver-using countries has lessened the demand for silver for the purchase of wheat. . . .

"The fact that silver and wheat have parted company will cause no dismay to those who understand that the law of supply and demand regulates the price of both. It is the contention of bimetalists that the opening of our mints to the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 will fix a mint price for silver, just as a mint price is now fixed for gold. They further contend that the demand thus created by law will be sufficient to utilize all the silver presented, and thus the bullion value will be raised to the coinage value."

Secretary Gage takes issue with Mr. Bryan's contention last quoted. The following interview was sent out to a number of newspapers from Washington:

"In the first place, properly speaking, there is no mint price for either gold or silver. All that the mint does with the man who brings to the mint a certain number of grains of uncoined gold is to give him in return the same number of grains in coined gold, less enough to pay for the metal alloy used by the mint in coining it. All that it could do for silver, at whatever so-called ratio, would be to give the men bringing uncoined silver to the mint an equal amount in ounces and grains of coined silver, less the cost of the alloy used by the mint in coining it. In neither case is there any demand thus set up. In the one case the man has his gold returned to him in gold dollars. In the other case, he has his silver returned to him in silver dollars. . . .

"Up to this point nothing in the shape of a demand such as Bryan talks about has appeared. Why, then, does he sophisticate about the demand thus created by law, when there is no demand thus created by law? If there is a demand for either gold or silver dollars, it must be outside of the mint, in the commercial world. This commercial demand would express itself in the ratio or price at which things would be offered in exchange for one, as compared with the other. Take the legal-tender quality away from both, and neither Mr. Bryan nor any of his intelligent followers would claim that silver in the form of dollars would bring in exchange for things any substantially higher price than the bullion would bring before being coined.

"He adds to this statement, 'thus the bullion value would be raised to the coinage value.' There is no 'raise' about it. Under free coinage the bullion value and the coinage value are and must be identical, but the 'determining' factor is the 'bullion' value.

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The matter might be here dismissed, but there is or would be an influence at work which might, and probably would, operate to raise the value of silver, to what extent or how continuously nobody knows. That influence is the legal-tender quality which the silver men want their free-silver dollars to carry. At this point they do not come out into the open, but carefully indulge in obscurity. . . .

"The reason why the legal-tender quality might or would lend a greater value to silver is this and only this: As they would serve to pay existing debts, many people would avail themselves thereof to discharge their obligations provided they could make a profit to themselves by doing so. This they could do only in case the silver dollars were worth 'less' than gold dollars. At the same cost most people will keep their honor and integrity. Many will do so at any sacrifice. A few will forfeit both for the most paltry consideration. How great a 'demand' would be thus set up for silver dollars? As before stated, nobody knows. We will grant there would be a demand, and if there were now no silver dollars in existence those first coming into the market would bring a high price. But there are now about 500,000,000 such dollars, and one dollar can be made to serve by repeated use in the payment of unlimited dollars of debt. So that if there was such a demand for the new dollars as to materially enhance their price in the beginning, the increasing supply always coming through the mint would soon satisfy it, and the price, *i.e.*, market price, would soon decline again to a point where the value of the silver dollar would be relegated to its exchangeable power for 'things in the commercial exchanges of the world.'

"Then, when that time came, which it soon would, the market value of the coined dollar would be the same as the market value of the bullion in it, and unless a new demand should arise not now foreseen, or unless the silver supply should be much reduced, the value of silver either as a metal or as money would not be essentially different from the present value of silver bullion."

Speaker Reed's study of prosperity followed Mr. Bryan's letter in the New York *World*. Among other things he said:

"This nation has had to have a special education in finance because its circumstances and surroundings were and are different from those of any other nation in the history of the world. It is true that before our day vast empires have been peopled by immigration and have flourished. But our empire has been peopled, not long ago, but in our day, in which there has been invented every appliance to enable men to exploit the riches of the earth. Moreover, beyond any other period in the world's history capital has been essential to the utilization of the riches of lands such as ours.

"We in the East are very much prone to blame the West for its attitude in financial struggles, but the Western people are under strong temptations always. They can see the wealth of their country and all its great possibilities, and, becoming impatient at the slow approach of confidence and capital, are tempted beyond measure to use all those appliances of the art of financiering which seem so easy and are in the long run so ruinous. We had our periods, we in the East, when we ran to paper money as to a savior and found it a satan. Our very Constitution, in its taking away from the States the right to issue paper money, is the result of the sufferings undergone by our ancestors in the East, which sufferings are depicted in Sumner's 'History of American Currency.'

"We have learned the lesson, but ought not to be too impatient with those who have not. We have learned and others will have to learn that in the end it is capital which costs that makes wealth which lasts. It is true that we may make a capital which does not cost, but it is a dangerous demon, and the harness is expensive and the breakups frequent."

Mr. Reed finds a striking resemblance between 1896 and 1897 and the years 1878 and 1879. In spite of a "carnival of unreason" specie payments were resumed in 1879, "we got back to the currency of the world without a movement or a jar," and "from that moment prosperity began, not the eternal prosperity of the New Jerusalem, but an earthly prosperity, enduring as long as human nature would permit." "There was no lack of money, because we had business which paid, and whenever a nation has business which pays it can draw on the money of the world." He continues:

"How like this are the events of the last twelve months! Prior to the passage of the tariff act we had scenes like those which preceded the first day of 1879. The offerers of the patent remedy stood by and jeered. They mocked at us when our fear came. But when the due legislation had been had and there was no further change to be looked forward to; when business had reached its sound basis and there was a reasonable chance to calculate the future, there came a repetition of the phenomena of 1879. . . .

"What makes prosperity, and what makes hard times?

"Way down to the base of things the causes may be different each time and perhaps incomprehensible, but on the surface they are both only the results of states of mind. . . .

"After a great smash like that of 1893 or that of 1873 there is nothing to do but wait and let the business of the world settle itself, carefully keeping meanwhile the medicine men of finance with their feathers and rattles out of the way of the sick man. When public confidence is profoundly shaken it must reestablish itself. It has been shaken by causes, and those causes must be removed.

"At this moment these blind leaders of the blind are explaining why the rise in wheat is no help to farmers. It is only an accident, they say. Poor crops elsewhere, and so we sell at a profit; that is all. You will be no better off in the end, for such accidents can not happen in the future. You will have to pay high prices for what you buy, and so you will be in the same case in another year as you were year before last.

"What idle talk this is! The returns from the wheat crop and the other cereals spent in purchases start the nation to work. When the nation once gets to work it will not stop until it gets out of gear again, and then it will halt, and then it will go on again, a succession of like events forever and forever. . . .

"Every historic period of revival has been like this. Some event at the ripe moment happens, like the resumption of specie payments, the setting of money in motion by reduction of the interest on part of the national debt, the passage of a tariff bill, which, rightly or wrongly, the people believed in. Human nature and human affairs, made ready for the change, have always done the rest.

"This talk of these gentlemen about prices and accidents and this recrimination about dead and buried speeches show them to be still groping about among the underbrush, while sensible men are standing on the mountain-top and beholding the earth to the very horizon's edge. The view may not be of the whole round earth, but it is better than the view from the jungle."

Nelson Dingley, chairman of the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives, whose name the new tariff bill bears, also writes to *The World* on prosperity and silver. He says in part:

"Whether this sudden change from distrust to confidence, from lethargy to activity, is the result of alternating tendencies of human nature from hope that grows until it topples to fear that increases until it has spent its force and gives place again to confidence, or of the defeat of the scheme to depreciate our standard money, or of dollar wheat, or of the settlement of the tariff question and a return to the protective policy, or, as is undoubtedly the case, of all these causes combined, the fact that this country has again started on the road to prosperity from which it was so disastrously thrown early in 1893 can no longer be denied."

He agrees with Speaker Reed regarding the primary causes of the swing of the business pendulum and emphasizes the influence of currency and tariff legislation on confidence and distrust:

"It is more than a coincidence that the beginning of industrial and business depression was immediately after it became known that the Presidential and Congressional elections of 1892 had resulted in the complete triumph of men pledged to overthrow the policy of protection, and that the beginning of industrial and business recuperation was immediately after it was settled that the policy of protection would be restored.

"And it is inevitable that the change from such a policy to the policy of encouraging home production and manufacture, determined upon at the recent session of Congress, would tend to dispel distrust and establish confidence in the future, start idle industries, open up new opportunities for labor, increase the purchasing power of the masses, enlarge the demand for products,

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raise, or at least tend to raise, prices to a paying point and promote the prosperity of all classes.

"And these results are quickened and strengthened by the conviction among business men that the scheme to depreciate the currency was given a fatal blow by the result of the elections of last November, and also by the concurrent rise in the price of wheat and other farm products.

"It is probable that dollar wheat is not to be expected in the future, when the wheat crop is abundant, for the reason that the reduced cost of handling wheat by machinery and the competition of Russia and Argentina make it possible in ordinary years to profitably grow wheat at a lower price. But wheat and other farm products will not be as low as they have been in the past four years of depression, for the simple reason that the restoration of the purchasing power of our people means an increase of consumption and a consequent maintenance of better prices.

"And with this demonstration that the prices of farm products, as well as of everything else, are made by the cost of production and supply on the one hand and demand on the other hand, and not by the price of silver, the 16-to-1 free-silver fallacy will be dealt so serious a blow that it must eventually give way to the teachings of experience, just as the fiat-money fallacy gave way in 1879-80 to the object-lesson of the vivifying effects of a return to sound money.

"It is perhaps too much to expect the 16-to-1 silver fallacy will not be an issue in the Congressional elections of next year, especially if, as is probable, wheat is lower next year than now and the free-silver leaders are able to maintain their hold on the Democratic Party. But the importance of making an end of this source of distrust and mischief is so great that the business men of the country will be found as solid in opposition to this fallacy as they were last year."

Mr. Dingley thinks tariff agitation will not disturb business for many years, because the Administration lasts four years, business interests will demand repose, and after four years' experience under the tariff of 1896 compared with the results of the tariff of 1894 a campaign against protection will be futile—"it has come to stay."

The latter half of Mr. Dingley's extensive letter is devoted to the revenue-producing qualities of the new tariff, estimating $32,000,000 loss of revenue on anticipatory importations which should be credited to actual receipts of the current year, and a possible further loss of $10,000,000 a month for several months:

"While it is hoped that the revenue received during the present fiscal year, with the $32,000,000 received before July 1 but belonging to this fiscal year, will meet the current expenditures of the fiscal year, yet it is possible that the anticipatory importations may have a more serious effect on the revenue in the next six months than is expected. However that may be, there is no doubt that the revenue from the new tariff and other sources for the fiscal year commencing July next will be ample for all purposes."

As to Republican policy on the currency Mr. Dingley says:

"Some of the criticism to which the Republican Party has been subjected for its attitude on the currency has evidently been made without the slightest attempt to preserve candor. It has been charged that the Republican Party pledged itself in the campaign of last year to a monetary policy which it has either ignored or abandoned. There is not the slightest foundation for this charge. The monetary plank of the Republican Party, as in the campaign of 1892, was explicit.

"Can any one point out the slightest departure from the pledge thus given? On the contrary, the Republican victory in November last has been accepted by the country and the world as the triumph of sound money, and the inauguration of a Republican Administration and the policy that it has pursued have dispelled distrust and established confidence in the integrity of our currency. There remain some things that should be done for our currency, and every one knows that the obstacles to further legislation in right directions lie not in the Republican House, but in the anti-Republican Senate."

Now that the farmers' congress has ably discussed the management of railroads, it is time for the railroad presidents to meet and take up the question of ensilage.—*The Tribune, Detroit.*

POWER OF REMOVAL FROM FEDERAL OFFICE.

JUSTICE COX, of the District of Columbia, has decided that the power to appoint, lodged in the heads of the executive departments of the Government, confers on them the power to remove; and further that the only prohibition on such executive officers of the Government in the matter of removal of inferior officers is that no one shall be removed for refusing to make political contributions. This decision is in line with the contention of the attorney for the Government that the civil-service act and the rules and regulations made thereunder, if enforced, might constitute an interference by the legislative with the executive branch of the Government. The court holds that in equity it has no jurisdiction to enjoin the Postmaster-General and his first assistant from removing a complainant, John G. Woods, of Louisville, Ky., who was supplanted as superintendent of mails by the appointment of a successor. Aside from holding that the court has no jurisdiction to grant an injunction, Justice Cox enters into an extended examination of the civil-service act of January 16, 1883, and the rules promulgated to prevent dismissal on account of political or religious opinions or affiliations, including the recent order of President McKinley requiring just cause, written charges, and opportunity to make defense before removal shall be made.

From the Constitution and the statutes, Justice Cox concludes that the right of removal from office is an incident of the right of appointment. The question of the power of Congress to delegate to the President or to any board of commissioners the authority to do any act which is equivalent to legislation is discussed, and, citing decisions of the Supreme Court defining the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Justice Cox decides that the civil-service act must be strictly construed. The opinion concludes:

"The simple inquiry is whether the rules invoked by the complainant, whether the President or the commission, or both, be the authors of them, are such as the act of January 16, 1883, known as the civil-service act, authorized to be established. In my judgment they are *ultra vires* and void.

"I have no doubt that the President may lay down rules for the internal policy of his administration, and may require his chief executive officers, dependent upon his pleasures for their tenure of office, to conform to them, or else to sever their official relations with him, and in that sense the rules relied on by the complainant were within his political and executive authority. But the enforcement of such rules is a matter between the President and his cabinet, and not a matter for the courts, or one in which the complainant has any legal interest. All that I mean to state in this opinion is that the rules in question were not such as the civil-service act authorizes, and do not derive any efficacy from that act.

"I know of nothing more important to the true interests of the country than the policy which the civil-service legislation was intended to initiate and promote, and it is perhaps a matter for great regret that the act of January 16, 1883, has not gone further than it does. But it is my duty to construe it as it is.

"To sum up, I conclude that, apart from the civil-service act, the Postmaster-General had the authority to remove the complainant from office at his pleasure; that this act makes no change in this respect, except to forbid removals for refusal to contribute to partizan objects; that the power to the commission and the President to establish rules to carry that act into effect does not authorize any rule which shall make a change in the law in this respect, and that even if this court had jurisdiction in a case like the present, the complainant is not entitled to the relief prayed."

Everything Depends on the President.—"The decision of the court is that the power to appoint, lodged in the head of an executive department, has always carried with it the power to remove, and that the only restriction put upon this power by the civil-service act is the prohibition of removal for a refusal to make contributions for political purposes. Any other restriction, Judge Cox holds, must come in the same way, by the express legislation of Congress, and any rule made by President or civil-service commission, or both, which imposes any other restriction is void.

"The first impression made by a hasty reading of the decision

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might be that the new rule regarding removals is nullified by it, but this by no means follows. Indeed, Judge Cox points out that, while the President can not legally issue an order which shall prevent a cabinet officer from exercising his absolute power of removal (subject only to the exception as to removals for refusal to make political contributions), the executive has a moral power over the members of the cabinet which may produce the same effect. . . . Practically, therefore, everything depends upon the attitude of the President in this matter. He can let it be understood that high officials may make sweeping removals without assigning any reason, or he can serve notice that the cabinet member, the collector, or the postmaster who turns a subordinate out without cause will suffer for it."—*The Evening Post* (*Ind.*), *New York.*

"If post-office officials can be removed without charges preferred against them the same power is vested in the head of every department and a return to the old spoils system is made possible. It has generally been understood that the civil-service rules made a 'clean sweep' impossible. This decision greatly limits the powers of the civil-service commission to make rules, and will 'take the starch out' of the federal law almost as effectually as did Governor Black out of the state law."—*The Courier-Record* (*Dem.*), *Buffalo.*

Intent of the Civil-Service Act.—"If the courts will not enjoin a Postmaster-General, for example, who attempts to violate an executive order, the President possesses the power to do so, in the sense that he may rid himself of a cabinet officer at any time who goes counter to his directions. The courts will interpret and enforce the law; an executive order which is merely disciplinary and which prescribes limitations not known to the law is beyond the jurisdiction of the courts. In the case of persons in the classified system, who feel themselves aggrieved because of discharge from the service, such persons must look to the President—the courts will not grant them relief. As a matter of common sense, even conceding that the McKinley addition to the civil-service regulations was directly in line with the statutes, Wood did not appear to have a good case. He was superintendent of mails, an important position, and his superiors deemed it wise and for the best interests of the service to transfer him to another place. He was removed from his position, but was not removed from the employ of the Government. The department may have had abundant reasons for making the change without being able to prove him guilty of a distinct offense. In the higher offices of the Government much should be left to the discretion of the head of the department in the way of assigning employees to duty. The merit system was not intended to be an incubus upon the Postmaster-General or any other cabinet officer, and to tie the hands of such officer with so much red tape that he could not manage his own department with a proper degree of freedom would be to drive a nail in the coffin of the merit system."—*The Ledger* (*Ind. Rep.*), *Philadelphia.*

Decision Not of Vast Consequence.—"But there is this further consideration to be noted: The law leaves to the President the power to regulate removals. The President, in pursuance of this power and through the civil-service commission—duly created for just such purposes—puts in force certain regulations. The head of the post-office department, as in this case, removes a superintendent of mails, in violation of these decreed regulations. Have these regulations, duly and lawfully made, no force which the judicial power can recognize?

"Mr. McKinley can, of course, abrogate those regulations at will. But while they stand, have they no force whatever? Have they no standing in court? If not, what real protective value do they possess to the subordinate office-holder? But Congress, responds Judge Cox, has no power to delegate legislative power to any administrative body. True, but Congress, within certain limits, does frequently delegate semi-legislative power to the executive. It authorizes the executive, we will say, to make rules and regulations for the collection of the revenue. Are we to understand that those rules have no force which a court can recognize?

"We can not, however, regard Judge Cox's decision as of vast consequence touching the reform of the civil service. Had he reached a contrary conclusion and sustained the protest of the ousted superintendent of mails at Louisville, the effect would not have been to deprive the appointing power or the executive of all right of discretionary removal. It would have simply compelled the executive power to live up to its own regulations while those regulations were nominally in force. The executive would still have been left free to repeal the regulations or to modify them at will."—*The Republican* (*Ind.*), *Springfield.*

SILVER AND THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

A FLURRY of discussion over the prospects of international bimetalism arises from the news that the Bank of England has expressed its willingness, under certain conditions, to hold part of its note reserve in silver bullion as authorized by charter, under the law of 1844. Official announcement of the conditions under which this may be done was made by the governor of the bank, Hugh C. Smith, September 16, at the semi-annual meeting of the directors of the bank. and is reported in the press as follows:

"'You are probably aware of the proposals laid before the Government in the summer by the United States and France, whereby this country might increase its use of silver as a contribution to an international agreement, which, while not affecting our gold standard, might enable the mints of France and America to resume free coinage. Among the proposals was one asking the bank to hold the amount of silver permissible under the act of 1844 as against its notes.'

"The governor then read a letter, dated July 29, addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. It was as follows:

"'Referring to our conversation we beg to say the bank is prepared to carry out what is laid down as permissible in the bank charter, viz., to hold one fifth of the bullion held against its note issue in silver, provided always that the French mint is again open to the free coinage of silver, and that the price at which silver is procurable and salable is satisfactory.'

"Replying to questions the governor said the bank had no negotiations with the United States monetary commissioners, adding:

"'We have bought no silver. All we have done is to agree, under certain circumstances, to carry out what is permissible under the act of 1884.'"

Cabled comments indicate that the London press condemn even this "empty concession" to bimetallic agitation. *The Times* says in part:

"As the same influences have been at work in France as here in relation to the currency reserve, the reopening of the French mints is perhaps within the limits of possibilities, tho we doubt whether the action of the Bank of England can be in any case a determining factor.

"The second condition which the bank imposes, the condition with reference to the price of silver, is obviously more important. An immense responsibility would rest upon the bank officials, who must exercise the right to decide what should be regarded as a satisfactory price. . . .

"We can not assume that the admission of a silver reserve would not detract from the bank's prestige abroad. It would be a very objectionable course, and not at all justified by the negotiations of the Ministry with the American commissioners and the French Government. . . .

"Leading French statesmen are not wholly disinclined to reopen the mints, while a vigorous attempt is being made to induce India to adopt the same course.

"This should not be done without serious consideration. In any case, free coinage by France, India, and the United States would not justify the Bank of England in regarding silver as good as gold for reserve. Therefore the bank's offer can only encourage illusory hopes, and the sooner it is allowed to lapse into oblivion the better to all concerned."

The London *Standard* says:

"A more absurd and mischievous letter has seldom been penned by a man in a position of high responsibility. It may be assumed that the question was put as one means of ridding the Government civilly of the importunities of the McKinley Administration; for Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is neither a bimetalist nor a man of weak character. To such a request, whatever its motive, there can be but one straightforward, manly answer, namely. that as the bank has promised to pay all its notes in gold, it could not admit silver into its reserve. . . .

"It is no excuse to say that the governor's letter involves no practical danger to our currency. For the mass of our people are unable to distinguish between the shades of theory and opinion

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on this currency question. Multitudes will think the bank converted to bimetalism, and the devotees of that transcendental cult will not be slow to boast another victory."

The *National Zeitung*, Berlin, expresses this opinion:

"The unfavorable reception the announcement has met with from all the organs of British trade leaves no room for doubt as to the opinion of the British commercial bodies and as to the ultimate fate of the latest American attempt to secure for the silver-mine owners, with the aid of Europe, a rise in silver as a reward for their support of the McKinley tariff policy and to keep the silverites in good humor."

Important Change of Policy.—"Exactly what is meant by this step will appear from the last balance-sheet of the issue department of the Bank which has reached this country, that of September 1, 1897. It is as follows:

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	£50,247,625	Government debt.....	£11,015,100
		Other securities.....	5,784,900
		Gold coin, bullion, and silver..	33,447,625
	£50,247,625		£50,247,625

"As will be seen, the bank is permitted to issue notes to the amount of the government debt which it holds, of certain 'other securities' it is permitted to use as security for notes and of gold coin, bullion, and silver. For many years the bank has held no metallic reserve but gold, and the notes it issues against this reserve are the basis of English currency and the universal money of account in settling debts and balances.

"If the report is confirmed the bank, when the specie balance is as large as now, will hold £6,574,604 of silver bullion, and this would be treated as a basis of currency. The amount thus held would not be large, from $30,000,000 to $40,000,000; but the principle would be accepted that silver is a suitable base for a paper currency. The moral effect therefore would be great, tho the material influence on silver prices might be small. But if the principle is to be accepted why should not the bank go far enough to give silver both material aud moral support? In any case, the step will be the most important one taken in English currency since the monometallic gold standard was adopted."—*The Press* (*Rep.*), *Philadelphia.*

A Matter of Business.—"It is hardly reasonable to suppose that so great and independent an institution as the Bank of England would take a step so far-reaching merely to be obliging. That is not banking, nor is it English. The more probable supposition is that the step is taken in accordance with a monetary policy deliberately chosen by the board of directors on its merits, and not on the sop plan at all. America asks no sop, least of all in a matter of this kind. Through the election of President McKinley on the St. Louis platform the United States announced with perfect clearness this monetary policy: Maintain all money on par with the best money, whether gold, silver, nickel, copper, or paper, letting the people have in actual use whichever they want. That is the American idea, and that it would seem the directors of the Bank of England are inclined to think is the true policy for that institution."—*The Inter Ocean* (*Rep.*), *Chicago.*

"Doing Something for Silver."—"The origin of the scheme is undoubtedly the desire of the bimetallic members of the British Government to do something to make silver more valuable than it is. They represent the great Tory landed interests and the Manchester cotton-spinners, who see in the present low price of silver the cause of the low price of agricultural produce and of the increasing competition in manufacturing of India and Japan. The one class desires to make the consumers of food pay more for it, and the other to make their workmen accept lower wages for their labor. The scheme has deservedly met with almost unanimous condemnation by the British press, and it will be dismissed with the contempt it merits."—*The Sun* (*McKinley Ind.*), *New York.*

"The condition expressed in the letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer is an impossible one. Then why does the bank disturb public confidence in the sanity of its management by putting forth this inexplicable and pointless announcement? It encourages the bimetalists with hopes that can not be realized. When Mr. Hugh Smith speaks of the proposed arrangement as one 'which, while not affecting our gold standard, might enable the mints of France and America to resume free coinage,' he uses language that is offensive to American opinion, whatever may be thought of it in France. He evidently expects us to be grateful for his kind offer to assist us to make egregious fools of ourselves."—*The Times* (*Ind.*), *New York.*

"As these conditions are prohibitory, the so-called agreement is meaningless. Nevertheless, British financial circles have received a shock from the discovery that the governor of the bank had written the Chancellor of the Exchequer as long ago as July 29 expressing willingness to accumulate silver in the impossible contingency specified. The care with which this action was kept secret by the bank officials indicates that they knew it would be condemned by public opinion. If, however, they entertained any lingering doubts on that subject, these must be emphatically set at rest by the outburst of condemnation elicited by the discovery that they had been coqueting with the question."—*The Herald* (*Ind.*), *New York.*

Encouragement for Genuine Bimetalists.—"Nothing short of the free and unrestricted coinage of silver on equal terms with gold by one or more of the leading nations of the world can ever be expected to give silver the stability of value which it possessed during the seventy years from 1803 until 1873, when France kept its mint open to the free coinage of both metals at the ratio of 15½ to 1.

"We hold that the United States is able to solve the problem in this way without the aid or consent of any other nation, because its financial and commercial power is infinitely greater now than was the financial and commercial power of France during that period, and we have no doubt whatever that if our mints should be reopened to the free coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1, the price of silver all over the world would immediately advance to $1.29 and remain there so long as our bimetallic coinage continued. In any event there is much encouragement for all genuine bimetalists in the remarkable advance now taking place in the price of silver bullion, for if that is due to so slight a cause as the proposed action of the Bank of England, it is evident that the establishment of an unlimited demand at the fixed mint price of $1.29 per ounce by our Government would restore and maintain the ancient parity between the two metals, both at home and abroad, while if it is due to a sudden conviction on the part of the English money power that bimetalism is inevitable, either through the independent action of the United States, or through international concert of action, it must be clear that the great desideratum is very close to its ultimate accomplishment."—*The Republican* (*Sil. Rep.*), *Denver, Colo.*

"The most remarkable thing about the entire discussion is the effort made to create the impression that nothing can possibly occur to enhance the value of silver bullion. Regarding the latter simply as a commodity, of which this country produces a large exportable surplus, one would think it good business policy to 'talk up' its price, just as we have been doing with wheat, corn, and other articles of export. Just because the white metal has been found to have outlasted its usefulness as a basis for a monetary system is no good reason for 'bearing' its market value as bullion."—*The Chronicle-Telegraph* (*Ind.*), *Pittsburg.*

SETH LOW, MUNICIPAL ISSUES, AND THE PRESIDENCY.

THE practicability of separating municipal elections from national issues is debated with renewed vigor since Seth Low made public his letter accepting the nomination of the Citizens' Union for mayor of Greater New York. The new constitution of the State provides for municipal elections in years alternating with state and national elections, and Mr. Low's letter reaffirms his statement that he "could accept no nomination if there were attached to it any obligations, expressed or implied, in case of election, other than the obligation of the official oath as mayor to make the interests of the city the paramount concern in the discharge of every duty." Nevertheless, no inconsiderable number of newspapers besides the New York *Sun* profess to have already discovered a Presidential possibility in Mr. Low.

To quote further from Mr. Low's letter:

"I am a Republican, and I expect to remain one; but I am

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completely in sympathy with the purpose of the Citizens' Union to secure a mayor for the great city who shall be 'free from all partizan obligations.' Such a mayor, if elected, I shall certainly be. In making appointments, it shall be my endeavor to fill every place with an eye single to the public good. The patronage of the city shall not be used, so far as it is in the mayor's power to prevent it, for the purpose of either strengthening or weakening one party or another, or any faction of any party. I shall try to make an administration that will be honest, broad-minded, efficient, and business-like, and considerate of the interests of every citizen.

"The civil-service laws of the State shall be impartially enforced 'by such methods as will insure a practicable and reasonable test of fitness and the selection of subordinate officers upon their merits, irrespective of political influence, so as to afford a fair chance to every citizen, without regard to race, religious belief, or political affiliation.' It shall be my endeavor to build up in all parts of the public service a spirit of honest pride, based upon the well-settled conviction on the part of every person in the city's employ that, so long as his services are needed and he renders them faithfully and well, no influence in the city shall be able to turn him out; while the moment he fails in his duty, no influence shall be strong enough to keep him in.

"Nothing is more vital to the welfare of the city, as I conceive, than that it be allowed by the legislature to shape its own destinies in all matters that are purely local. I would wish the great city to bear its part proudly in all the concerns of the Empire State and willingly to bear its share of the burdens of the State; but, as concerns the city's local affairs, it is not so much a part of the State as it is the home of its inhabitants. If I am elected, I shall contend sturdily for the city's right, in such matters, to govern itself.

"As to the public franchises, the Greater New York charter practically embodies the doctrine that the city shall not part with the ownership of its franchises, but shall lease them for limited periods subject to occasional revision of the terms. I think legislation should be had, however, in addition to the charter that will enable the city to treat every consent to a change of power by street railroads as a new franchise. It is utterly unreasonable that because of defective legislation these valuable grants should continue to be given away without compensation to the city. As matters now stand, these consents are granted by the state railroad commission and the city is deprived of all opportunity to secure a return for them either by way of a money payment or by imposing conditions calculated to secure a service thoroughly in the interest of the public."

Mr. Low declares further that he is in favor of carrying to speedy completion the municipal rapid transit system approved by New York voters in 1894; that he will interest himself in the schools and all that concerns the higher life of the people; that the harbor and water front will command special care, and that state labor laws should be applied to the city in letter and spirit. He devotes some space to the vexing question of excise legislation:

"No campaign in the city of New York turning on local issues can be conducted, in the present condition of excise legislation, without some reference to the excise question. The Raines law, in my belief, contains the germ of an excise system far better than that which it supplanted, in that it has relieved the liquor traffic of the arbitrary control of excise boards, and has substituted for this a grant of explicit rights that can be enforced at law. Where the Raines law fails as applied to New York it fails because it does not take into account the public sentiment of the city. New York, while characteristically an American city, is also, as the Germans say, a world city. It is cosmopolitan in fact and cosmopolitan in sentiment. Men of every sort of upbringing must be able to live in such a city happily and naturally, of course with due regard to the rights and convictions of others. Legislators on this subject should never forget that the excise law stands midway between the laws that everybody believes in and the dead laws that nobody believes in, and that the effective public sentiment behind it, locally, is the only permanent force on which to depend in its administration. For this reason, in my opinion, an excise law, so far as it affects the daily life and the habits of the people, should reflect the public opinion of the city. On such points, in case of radical differences of opinion, I should take the appeal to the people themselves. In a community like this I know of no better way to secure for an excise law the support of a public sentiment that will sustain its even enforcement."

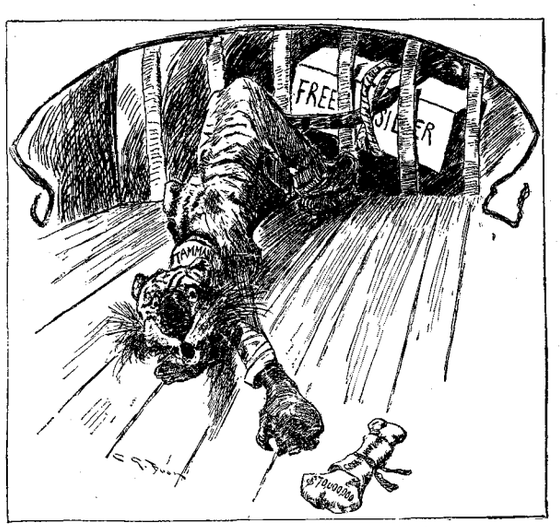
The letter concludes:

"The city of New York will have a population larger than that of most of the States of the Union, and larger than that of all the colonies combined when they issued their Declaration of Independence. The wish of those for whom you speak, as I understand it, is especially to secure for this imperial city the opportunity to start upon its new career under an administration pledged to make the interests of the city its supreme care. Such a purpose ought to appeal to the civic pride of every citizen. I could wish that the popular movement which you represent had designated some other man to lead in the great struggle; for in such a cause it would have been a pleasure to serve in the ranks. But if my fellow citizens see fit to entrust the arduous task to me, I shall serve them loyally with every power that I have."

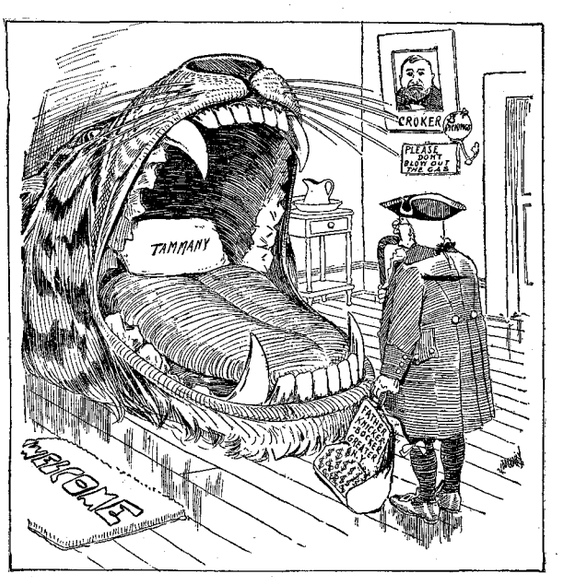
Wanted: A Municipal Policy in National Parties.—"If the great political parties are to retain their hold on the governments of the cities they must meet the requirements of the people. It is well enough to talk about silver and gold, protection and free trade, Cuba and Hawaii, governmental revenues and pensions in a national campaign; but these do not appeal to the voters in a municipal election. They want to know something about street-paving, sewer-construction, park improvements, police methods, economy in the various departments, the control and limitations of franchises, and a hundred other matters pertaining exclusively to municipal government.

"If the city leaders of the great national parties do not care to meet these issues, then the people will divide into local parties, without regard to national affairs; the lines of the old organizations will be weakened, and the campaign will be conducted without reference to the principles of the Republican Party or the principles of the Democratic Party. To refuse to meet these municipal issues is construed by the people as an evidence of duplicity, and the old-time leaders are left to bewail the extension of mugwumpian ideals.

"A political party that has a definite national policy should not be ashamed to have a definite municipal policy. If the non-partizan movements in city affairs are to be checked, the regular



WILL IT STAND THE STRAIN?—*The World, New York.*



THE SAME OLD FOLDING BED.—*The Inter Ocean, Chicago.*

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parties must accept the methods of the non-partizan organizations. They must adopt platforms relative to municipal affairs, decide upon a municipal policy, and go before the voters as they do in a national campaign. They must appeal to the electorates to support or reject certain specific propositions pertaining exclusively to municipal affairs, and when they do this we shall hear no more of non-partizan movements. But a party that confesses it has no settled policy in reference to city government can not expect that the people will put it in possession of the local offices merely because a majority of them indorse the principles by which it purposes to manage the affairs of the nation."—*The Tribune (Sil. Rep.), Detroit.*

Bryanism as a Municipal Issue.—"The election here will be not only the most important in the country, but also the first to be held following the inauguration of the McKinley Administration, the first following the settlement of the tariff controversy by the passage of the Dingley bill, but, more notably still, the first following the defeat of the Bryan conspiracy. The voters of what is to be the city of New York in this year's election were asked last year to choose between national honor and an ignoble form of repudiation of all contracts, public and private, between the assailants and the protectors of the public credit, and between law and order on the one side and riot and communism on the other. Despite economic conditions remarkably favorable to the propaganda of communistic notions, despite local conditions of politics which were adverse to the Republicans here, the voters of the enlarged city, by a splendid majority of 58,000, responded nobly to the call of patriotism, and the Republican Party carried the city of New York over the Bryanites in every borough of it. The question, the one and only question, presented this year for their determination is: Do you wish in 1897 to reverse the popular decision of a year ago, to annul that record, and to strike down the Republican Party, Bryanism's only powerful enemy?"—*The Sun (McKinley Ind.), New York.*

Municipalize the Municipalities.—"Mr. Low says that he is a Republican and expects to remain one, yet he is thoroughly in accord with the idea that cities should be utterly divorced from the questions that make up national or state politics. The good old hunkers of Spoilsdom are as much opposed to this idea as they were to the alleged liberty-killing innovation of civil-service reform. Ex-Governor Flower declares that 'machines' are even needed in city politics in order to resist anarchy, and if we believe that, of course it follows that Tammany has ever been a pillar of public order and sobriety. Speaker O'Grady, the Republican who presides over the lower branch of the New York legislature, presents another and more common view when he writes: 'Disintegration of party lines in New York city will inevitably soon lead to a similar state of affairs further up the State, and when that comes there will be an end to all party organization and responsible government.' Anarchy and the disappearance of all 'responsible government' would indeed be a heavy price to pay for Mr. Low's election and the triumph of the idea he represents! How terrible to contemplate!

"But, on the contrary, there is reason to believe that the triumph of Mr. Low would herald the rapid approach of an era when, with municipal government in the United States wrested from party plunderers and machine debauchees, the country would have more responsible government and one less imperiled by anarchy than ever before. Political parties can and will exist in their proper spheres; and where there are political issues to be agitated, there will be political organizations representing opposing ideas. Municipal government in England is divorced from national politics, yet every one observes that the Conservative and Liberal parties continue to divide the seats in Parliament. And we shall find in this country that with purer governments in local affairs the people will demand that the standards be raised in state and national affairs. So much is worth striving for.

"To adopt a phrase now current in another line of discussion, Mr. Low to-day stands for the municipalization of municipalities, which means the placing of great cities under genuine public control. And we must municipalize the municipalities before we municipalize anything else."—*The Republican (Ind.), Springfield, Mass.*

Independent Municipal Voting.—"No political phenomenon in recent years has been more conspicuous than the growth of the habit of voting in municipal matters independently of party lines. Our own city has furnished conspicuous examples of it. In the election of 1895, despite the almost unprecedented intensity of feeling, the majority for the Republican candidate for mayor fell short by 3,600 of the majority for the Republican candidate for governor, while the shortage in the case of the clerk of the Superior Court was no less than 6,200. At a time when the contest was less intense, such differences would be sure to be very greatly increased. Moreover, each year that passes testifies to the growth of the sentiment underlying such independent action. People realize more and more thoroughly and more and more generally the obvious truth that good city government is a thing entirely disconnected from the great questions of national statesmanship. At Chicago, a few months ago, the independent candidate for mayor actually polled a much larger vote than the regular Republican candidate, in face of the fact that only a few months before that the Republican Party had swept the city by an overwhelming majority. In New York to-day, there is going on a movement for strictly independent city government, with Seth Low as the exponent of its aims, which is supported by more than a hundred thousand voters who have signed their names, and which is spreading consternation in the ranks of the politicians of both parties who represent the spoils idea of municipal politics. That the rapidly growing element of our population which believes in complete separation of municipal from national politics is going to cut a notable figure in the returns of the Baltimore city election next November, there can be no question."—*The News (Dem.), Baltimore.*

Timely Hints to Democrats.—"There is much in Mr. Low's letter which it becomes the leaders of the Democracy to digest thoroughly. It is an admirable pointer, as a whole, toward the ends which a majority of the people of the united cities have in view, and which can not be antagonized by the Democracy without infidelity to Democratic principles. The civil-service law has a steadily growing public sentiment behind it; the labor laws of the State have the approval of every enlightened student of political economy throughout the world on their side; and beyond any sort of question the whole tendency of judgment both here and in Europe is toward the taking of railroads, electric lighting, and gasmaking, in cities into the public hands. The Democratic leader who has not mastered these facts is behind the age, and is not well qualified at a time like the present to exercise an important influence in shaping the policy of the party.

"Concerning the excise law, involving as it does broad questions of personal liberty, as well as the distinct question of home rule, there can be no two opinions among Democrats. The man who calls himself a Democrat and at the same time harbors in his mind any shadow of the notion that it is either his duty or right to interfere with the liberties of his neighbors, except in so far as the exercise of such liberties plainly operates to the prejudice of corresponding liberties, needs an instructor. With the two points of revenue and the peace of the community covered, there is no more warrant left for interfering, according to the Democratic doctrine, with the citizens' drinking habits than there is for imposing restraints upon the internal management of his household.

"To the extent to which Mr. Low has been instrumental in bringing these matters into clear light he is entitled to the thanks of Democrats; nor will further thanks be withheld from him for helping to make the line of distinction between national and municipal politics visible to all but the dullest eyes."—*The Citizen (Dem.), Brooklyn.*

Mr. Low and the Presidency.—"The political situation in Greater New York is very much mixed and admits of a variety of speculation, but the height of absurdity seems to have been reached in the suggestion that if Seth Low is nominated and elected mayor he will find his way to the White House in 1900. To make such a thing possible, it must first be assumed that both political parties have before that time gone to pieces, and that radically new alinements are in progress all around.

"How stands the case to-day? The Democracy is for free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, for an income tax, and for some change in the line of restriction of the powers of the general Government. It may adopt other issues between now and 1900, but it is almost certain not to drop any one of the three named. How would it be possible, therefore, for Mr. Low to lead the Democracy in that fight? No man in the country, either by record, environment, or conviction, would be more ineligible. If Mr. Bryan is not the leader again, some man of his school and purpose is certain to be.

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"The Republicans, for their part, would stand by their record. They will properly and necessarily be judged by that. They are in power, are executing their policies, and will stand or fall by the result as it appears three years hence. If success has been achieved they will have little trouble in securing an indorsement at the polls. If failure stands all but confessed, they must still make the fight. In either event, Mr. McKinley, if he lives will be the candidate. In the one case it would be impossible to turn him down. In the other case by turning him down the party would make defeat a certainty. So where does Mr. Low figure in any reasonable calculations respecting the Republican nomination?

"If, as already stated, the unexpected and apparently the impossible takes place; if both of the old parties are disrupted under a heavy strain and the fight of 1900 is to take place under radically new conditions and alinements, then new national leaders will appear. But would Mr. Low fit even that situation? He is a conservative, conscientious, and thoroughly capable man, who would fill the office of President admirably. But is he the sort of man likely to be chosen to leadership in a time of almost revolutionary turmoil? Would any new party, squaring itself in such circumstances for a supreme struggle, turn to such a man? The rousing orator, the man of audacity, the political gambler, *par excellence*, playing high, and standing to win all or lose all, would, much to the country's peril, more likely to be chosen."—*The Star (Ind.), Washington.*

Republican Fear Complimentary to Low.—"Office is only the opportunity for a man to develop and demonstrate what is in him. If he is not an able and a true man, the holding of office injures him for future preferment. It was the test of the mayoralty of Buffalo and the manner in which Grover Cleveland acquitted himself under it that furnished him his first credentials for statesmanship. If Seth Low is put in the way to be President by being made mayor of New York, it will be because he acquires a fame in his office which commends him to the people. He must be a good mayor to have the chance feared for him in political preferment beyond this. It apparently does not occur to those who object to him on the ground above noted that they are paying him a high compliment in their foreboding."—*The Herald (Ind.), Boston.*

SETTLEMENT OF THE MINERS' STRIKE.

THE strike of the bituminous coal-miners which began July 4 was settled, so far as the leaders of the miners' organizations could settle it, at a convention in Columbus, Ohio, September 12, which adopted the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That we, the miners of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, in convention assembled, do hereby agree to accept the proposition recommended by our national executive committee, viz: Sixty-five cents in Pittsburg district; all places in above-named State where a relative price can be obtained to resume work and contribute liberally to the miners who do not receive the advance, where the fight must be continued until the bitter end.

"*Resolved*, That the national officers, executive board, and district presidents act as an advisory board for the purpose of providing ways and means for the carrying on of the strike where necessary; provided, however, that no district resume work for ten days for the purpose of giving miners in other districts time to confer with their operators, and get the price if possible."

These resolutions, first voted down, were afterwards adopted by a vote of 495 to 317, and the convention decided to devote ten per cent. of the wages of the miners who go to work at the end of ten days for the support of those who fail to secure work at the scale from other operators.

A Most Peaceful Remonstrance Against Starvation.—"It is true that it was deemed necessary by certain operators to secure injunctions to restrain the strikers from trespassing upon their property, but in spite of the incendiary speeches by Debs and other agitators, who talked bloodshed, bullets, and anarchy, the strike will go down in history as one of the most peaceable remonstrances against starvation that were ever inaugurated by any class of laborers in this country. . . .

"It is not known how the ten-day clause will be received by the operators who made the proposition for a settlement with the understanding that the men would return immediately to work. It is hardly probable, however, that any operators outside of De Armitt will refuse this reasonable concession, inasmuch as the readjustment of the scale in Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana to conform to the Pittsburg agreement must of necessity require some time for negotiation and conference. Whether the operators in all the Illinois, West Virginia, and Indiana districts will fall in line or not is a matter of conjecture at this time, altho the Indiana operators are very apt to follow the lead of Illinois in the matter of accepting the 56-cent proportionate rate.

"Even tho the agreement adopted at Columbus is not acceded to by all the operators, it is a safe prediction that the back of the big strike is broken and that within ten days nearly all the miners will be at work.

"'It is as complete a national settlement of the miners' wage question as we have ever had,' says President Ratchford, of the National Mine-Workers' Association. And he might have also added that it was a significant triumph for peaceful methods in the adjustment of a great labor controversy. At the conference to be held in December to fix a wage scale for 1898 there should be a basis of agreement that will make the recurrence of such a strike impossible."—*The Times-Herald (McKinley Ind.), Chicago.*

One Crisis after Another.—"The operators who have entered into the agreement for the settlement of the strike have apparently done so in good faith, but there seems to be a fear that they will break faith not out of preference, not intentionally, but be forced to it by force of circumstances. All the operators have not entered into the agreement to pay the compromise price, a price fixed on a basis of 65 cents a ton in the Pittsburg district. In that district are the De Armitt mines, that are not included in the settlement. There are also other operators who have not bound themselves to the agreement. Against these operators the strike must of course be continued. On the success of the strike waged from now on against such operators depends the life of the Columbus agreement, by which the strike in the majority of mines was compromised. Operators who have entered this agreement and miners alike are interested in the success of the strike from now on. If the De Armitts can run their mines paying 54 cents a ton, 11 cents below the district price, and if other operators not parties to the Columbus agreement can do likewise, then this agreement will be short-lived, for the operators not signing the agreement will be able to undersell those who did, by underselling them take their contracts and leave the pits coming under the agreement orderless and idle.

"And then the operators who signed the agreement will break faith. So the efforts to close the De Armitt and other mines outside of the agreement and keep them closed until they will agree to that agreement will be unrelenting. Camps will be established at such mines, and the miners on strike at such mines will be given full pay, the miners who go back to work taxing themselves to this end. By such efforts it is hoped and expected that such mines can be kept closed until the operators, tired of losing profitable contracts, will agree to pay the full district rates. The coal strike has passed through the first crisis only to enter upon another."—*The American, Philadelphia.*

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

AND we have just got through lecturing Ohio for a lynching outrage!—*The News, Indianapolis.*

AS near as can be made out from Mr. Bryan's various addresses, wheat will be lower at some times than it is at others. It was lower last year, therefore it is higher this year.—Q. E. D.—*The Times-Herald, Chicago.*

IT might be better for the Pennsylvania coal-operators to stop calling their Hungarian and Polish miners ignorant and dangerous elements of the population until an explanation is vouchsafed as to why they imported them.—*The Herald, Boston.*

"ROCKEFELLER even controls poetry now."

"How do you make that out?"

"A great critic defined poetry as a combination of sweetness and light, and doesn't Rockefeller control both sugar and oil?"—*Judge, New York.*

A NORTHERN exchange comments editorially on the fact that very few negroes commit suicide. An old Atlanta darky was asked the reason of this, and he replied, with grim humor:

"Well, suh, in some places dey kills us off so fast, dey ain't no use in we helpin' 'em out any."—*The Constitution, Atlanta.*

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LETTERS AND ART.

THE CREED OF SHAKESPEARE'S FATHER.

UNABLE to agree on the religious belief of William Shakespeare himself, some of the Shakespearian students are now engaged in determining what the nature was of the religious atmosphere in which as a child he was reared. This atmosphere, it is assumed, must have insensibly affected his whole attitude of thought in later years, and hence the literary importance of the question whether John Shakespeare, bailiff of Stratford, was a Protestant or a Catholic, and, if the former, whether he was or was not a Puritan. Last year an English writer, Mr. Yeatman, in a work entitled "Gentle Shakespeare," revived the old theory that Shakespeare was brought up in the Catholic faith. This theory took its start from a tradition inserted by one Archdeacon Davies, so it is said, toward the close of the seventeenth century, in a manuscript dictionary of biography which he possessed, this tradition being to the effect that Shakespeare died a Papist. Mr. Yeatman, however, rested his case largely upon a profession of faith which was said to have been made by John Shakespeare and which was found under the tiles of his house. This profession of faith, it is now charged by others, bears strong marks of having been forged in the middle of the eighteenth century by a certain John Jordan.

A new book on the subject of the controversy has lately been put forth in England by Rev. T. Carter, who claims that John Shakespeare was not only a Protestant, but a Puritan and Recusant of an extreme type, who suffered for his faith during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The London *Academy*, in reviewing the book, credits the author with accuracy and scholarship, but thinks he has established only a part of his claim. We quote from this review:

"We have very little doubt that John Shakespeare is fairly to be put down as a convinced Protestant. He had his children baptized in the parish church, and, as Mr. Carter points out, he took a leading part in municipal affairs upon occasions when anti-Catholic measures were being carried out. An almost more important point is that Shakespeare's plays are permeated with a knowledge of the language and phrases of the English Bible, so intimate that it must surely have been acquired in early childhood. This, of course, would have been quite impossible in a Catholic family, even in one where open conformity was practised.

"We take it, then, that Mr. Carter has made his case seem at least probable, so far as John Shakespeare's Protestantism is concerned. Unfortunately, he is not content with this. He will have it that John Shakespeare belonged to that section of Protestants for whom the English Church as established by Elizabeth failed to prove sufficiently comprehensive, and who, consequently, so soon as the stress of the Armada was past, came to loggerheads with the law. It is well known that in about the year 1579 a change came over John Shakespeare's life, that he began to sell or mortgage his property, that he was excused or failed to pay his contributions to various public purposes, that he withdrew from municipal work, and in the end was put out of the corporation. These facts have generally been accepted as evidences of growing financial embarrassment. Mr. Carter would explain them as signs of disaffection with the anti-Puritan tendencies of those in authority. John Shakespeare, he says, alienated his property in order to put it out of reach of confiscation; he left the corporation because it sided with the bishops; he refused to pay for the equipment of pikemen because they were intended for use in putting down Puritan conventicles. The case is ingenious and well worked out; but, on the whole, it is not quite convincing. It explains the facts, no doubt, but then the old theory of poverty explains them also, and to the plain man, without a preconceived theory to maintain, explains them rather better. Moreover, there is the Stratford tradition, handed on by Betterton to Rowe, that Shakespeare left school owing to the 'narrowness of his circumstances and the want of his assistance at home,' to be reckoned with, and the known fact of a great depression in the wool and other allied trades in the Midlands about 1580. Mr. Carter points out that the fact of John Shakespeare's ceasing to attend the corporation meetings can hardly be taken as a proof of poverty, because by so doing he laid himself open to a heavy fine. Legally, no doubt, that was so; but we believe that the town accounts afford no evidence that the fines were actually inflicted. It was natural that the ruined man should find it difficult to hold up his head, among his old associates, and it is not at all unlikely that the corporation, after bearing with his non-attendance for some years, chose the charitable course of putting him out of the company without exacting any pecuniary penalty.

"It is one of the ironies of literary history that the one fact which might have been expected to throw light on the matter proves, when examined, equally consistent with John Shakespeare having been a Catholic or a Puritan, poverty-stricken or a recusant. In 1592 his name appears in a list of Warwickshire recusants, drawn up by Sir Thomas Lucy under the Recusancy Act of that year. Unfortunately, this list contains both Puritans and Papists, and, moreover, John Shakespeare is included with eight others, of whom it is said that 'these last nine coom not to Churche for fear of process for dette.' We do not know why we should assume that this excuse was a false one."

BALFOUR'S SPEECH ON BURNS.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR has also made a speech in the town of Dumfries on the subject of Burns. Coming so soon after Lord Rosebery's speech at the Burns Centenary, it is, naturally enough, compared to his lordship's efforts, and much in the latter's favor. The occasion of Mr. Balfour's speech was the presentation to him, because of his political services, his literary eminence, and his honorable influence upon men, of the freedom of Dumfries. Mr. Balfour, in the beginning of his remarks, called attention to the fact that within a few months no less than four public ceremonials of general interest have taken place, all of them to commemorate the memory of Scottish writers—Burns, Carlyle, Stevenson, and Scott. Of these, Mr. Balfour thinks, Burns is the one who is "nearest to the hearts of the great mass of our countrymen." In seeking the cause of this popularity the speaker said:

"It seems to me, indeed, that not only does Robert Burns hold a peculiar and unique position in the minds of Scotsmen, and many Scotsmen of letters, but that he holds a unique position, so far as I understand the matter, if we survey the whole field of modern literature. For I know no other case—I do not speak dogmatically upon the point, but I do not recall any other case—in which we can say with the same confidence that a poet has occupied a place, and a great place, in universal literature and that he is also the daily companion of hundreds of thousands of men and women who can not be described as belonging to a class who make an occupation of literary study.

"I imagine that this unique fact, if unique fact it be, is in part due to the circumstance that Burns dealt so largely with those great elementary feelings, passions, and experiences which are common to every human being, whether he be literary or whether he be not literary, whatever his occupation in life may be, whatever be the labors which engross his time. For his best poems, after all, not all his poems, but the bulk of the best, deal with such things as love and friendship, the joys of family life, the sorrows of parting, all things which come within the circle of our daily experience, and he dealt with them simply as they are, in a manner which comes home to every man and every woman, which readily echoes their own intimate sense of reality. It speaks to them, therefore, in tones of sympathy and of consolation, and is present with them in all the experiences of their daily life. And, while this is the character of the subjects which Burns made his themes, he treated them at a time and in a manner which gained him an absolutely unique position in the development of British literature, for he was unconscious of his mission, he was unconscious of the great work which he was to initiate and foreshadow. He was the first of those great revolutionary writers—revolutionary I mean, in the literary sense of the word—which made the early years of the present century so rich in instruction and so

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rich in genius. He was the precursor of Wordsworth and Scott and of Byron and Shelley and Keats, but while he was their precursor, while he heralded this great change in the literary fashions of his country, he spoke in tones which deeply sank into the popular mind, and which appealed to the people. The names of Wordsworth and Shelley, of Byron and Keats, are names, but little else."

BYRON'S SELF-REVELATIONS.

SINCE Lord Byron's correspondence was first collated, published, and discussed, a new generation has come on the scene. The new edition of his letters (1804-13), which forms the second volume in the series being published by Mr. W. E. Henley, will come to many, therefore, with all the charm of novelty, and even for the long-time students of Byron there is a vast fund of new information to be found in Mr. Henley's copious notes.

Byron was one of the best of letter-writers and one of the frankest of self-revealers. Few even of the shortest notes in this volume fail to disclose him in one or other of his many moods. Mr. Henley proclaims him as "the sole English poet . . . bred since Milton to live a master influence in the world at large." What sort of man this poet was the letters themselves enable us best to judge. "The adventures of my life," he writes in 1807, "from sixteen to nineteen, and the dissipation into which I have been thrown in London have given a voluptuous tint to my ideas; but the occasion which called forth my Muse could hardly admit any other coloring. This volume ['Juvenilia'] is vastly correct and chaste."

We give below a series of extracts from letters written by Byron at various times and to various correspondents:

LORD BYRON.

"You will be astonished to hear I have lately written to Delaware. . . . I have discovered he was treated with injustice both by those who misrepresented his conduct, and by me in consequence of their suggestions. I have therefore made all the reparation in my power, by apologizing for my mistake, tho with very faint hopes of success; indeed, I never expected any answer, but desired one for form's sake; *that* has not yet arrived, and most probably never will. However, I have *eased* my *conscience* by the atonement, which is humiliating enough to one of my disposition; yet I could not have slept satisfied with the reflection of having, *even unintentionally*, injured any individual. I have done all that could be done to repair the injury, and there the affair must end. Whether we renew our intimacy or not is of very trivial consequence.

"My time has lately been much occupied with very different pursuits. I have been *transporting* a servant, who cheated me, —rather a disagreeable event; performing in private theatricals; publishing a volume of poems (at the request of my friends, for their perusal); making love; and taking physic. The two last amusements have not had the best effect in the world; for my attentions have been divided among so many fair damsels, and the drugs I swallow are of such variety in their composition, that between Venus and Æsculapius I am harassed to death. However, I have still leisure to devote some hours to the recollections of past, regretted friendships. . . ."

"The title of doctor will do wonders with the damsels. . . . Since we met I have reduced myself by violent exercise, *much* physic and *hot* bathing, from 14 stone 6 lb. to 12 stone 7 lb. In all I have lost 27 pounds. Bravo!—what say you?"

"For my own part, I have suffered severely in the decease of my two greatest friends, the only beings I ever loved (females excepted); I am therefore a solitary animal, miserable enough, and so perfectly a citizen of the world that whether I pass my days in Great Britain or Kamschatka is to me a matter of perfect indifference. . . ."

"My life here [Cambridge, 1807] has been one continued routine of dissipation. . . . At this moment I write with a bottle of claret in my *head* and *tears* in my *eyes;* . . . . Sorry to say, been *drunk* every day, and not quite *sober* yet—however, touch no meat, nothing but fish, soup, vegetables, consequently it does me no harm—sad dogs all the *Cantabs*. Mem.—*we mean* to reform next January."

"Last week I swam in the Thames from Lambeth through the two bridges, Westminster and Blackfriars, a distance, including the different turns and tacks made on the way, of three miles! You see I am in excellent training in case of a *squall* at sea. . . ."

"Oh! the misery of doing nothing but make *love*, *enemies*, and *verses*. . . . This evening a large assortment of jockeys, gamblers, foxers, authors, parsons, and poets, sup with me,—a precious mixture, but they go on well together; and for me, I am a *spice* of everything except a jockey. . . ."

"The events of my short life have been of so singular a nature, that, tho the pride commonly called honor has, and I trust ever will, prevent me from disgracing my name by a mean or cowardly action, I have been already held up as the votary of licentiousness and the disciple of infidelity. How far justice may have dictated this accusation, I can not pretend to say; but like the *gentleman* to whom my religious friends, in the warmth of their charity, have already devoted me, I am made worse than I really am.

"I once thought myself a philosopher, and talked nonsense with great decorum. I defied pain, and preached up equanimity. For some time this did very well, for no one was in *pain* for me but my friends, and none lost their patience but my hearers. At last a fall from my horse convinced me bodily suffering was an evil; and the worst of an argument overset my maxims and my temper at the same moment: so I quitted Zeno for Aristippus, and conceive that pleasure constitutes the τὸ καλόν. In morality I prefer Confucius to the Ten Commandments, and Socrates to St. Paul, tho the two latter agree in their opinion of marriage. In religion I favor the Catholic emancipation, but I do not acknowledge the Pope: and I have refused to take the sacrament, because I do not think eating bread or drinking wine from the hand of an earthly vicar will make me an inheritor of heaven. I hold virtue in general, or the virtues severally, to be only in the disposition, each a *feeling*, not a principle. I believe truth the prime attribute of the Deity, and death an eternal sleep, at least of the body. You here have a brief compendium of the sentiments of the *wicked* George Lord Byron; and till I get a new suit, you will perceive I am badly clothed."

"I think *I* could write a more sarcastic critique on *myself* than any yet published."

"Hodgson, remember me to the Drury, and remember me to yourself, when drunk. I am not worth a sober thought. . . . I leave England without regret, I shall return to it without pleasure. I am like Adam, the first convict, sentenced to transportation, but I have no Eve, and have eaten no apple but what was sour as a crab; and thus ends my first chapter."

"It is my opinion that Mr. B—— ought to marry Miss ——.

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Our first duty is not to do evil; but alas! that is impossible: our next is to repair it, if in our power. The girl is his equal; if she were his inferior, a sum of money and provision for the child would be some, tho a poor compensation: as it is, he should marry her. I will have no gay deceivers on my estate, and I shall not allow my tenants a privilege I do not permit myself, *that* of debauching each other's daughters. God knows, I have been guilty of many excesses; but, as I have laid down a resolution to reform, and lately kept it, I expect this Lothario to follow the example, and begin by restoring this girl to society, or by the beard of my father! he shall hear of it."

Here is a wail pitifully straight from the heart:

"My Dearest Davies [he writes to Scrope Davies, his friend]:—Some curse hangs over me and mine. My mother lies a corpse in this house; one of my best friends is drowned in a ditch. What can I say, or think, or do? I received a letter from him the day before yesterday. My dear Scrope, if you can spare a moment, do come down to me—I want a friend. Matthew's last letter was written on Friday—on Saturday he was not. . . . Come to me, Scrope; I am almost desolate—left almost alone in the world—I had but you, and H., and M., and let me enjoy the survivors whilst I can."

Byron's views on religion are slightly foreshadowed above; but here, under date September 3, 1811, is a fuller statement written to his friend, Hodgson:

"My dear Hodgson:—I will have nothing to do with your immortality; we are miserable enough in this life, without the absurdity of speculating upon another. If men are to live, why die at all? and if they die, why disturb the sweet sound sleep that 'knows no waking'? . . . As to revealed religion, Christ came to save men; but a good pagan will go to heaven and a bad Nazarene to hell; 'Argal' (I argue like the gravedigger), why are not all men Christians? or why are any? If mankind may be saved who never heard or dreamt, at Timbuctoo, Otaheite, Terra Incognita, etc., of Galilee and its Prophet, Christianity is of no avail; if they can not be saved without, why are not all orthodox? It is a little hard to send a man preaching to Judæa, and leave the rest of the world—niggers and what not—dark as their complexions, without a ray of light for so many years to lead them on high; and who will believe that God will damn men for not knowing what they were never taught? I hope I am sincere; I was so at least on a bed of sickness in a far-distant country when I had neither friend, nor comforter, nor hope, to sustain me. I looked to death as a relief from pain, without a wish for an after-life, but a confidence that the God who punishes in this existence had left that last asylum for the weary. Ὃν ὁ θεὸς ἀγαπάει ἀποθνήσκει νέος. I am no Platonist, I am nothing at all; but I would sooner be a Paulician, Manichean, Spinozist, Gentile, Pyrrhonian, Zoroastian, than one of the seventy-two villainous sects who are tearing each other to pieces for the love of the Lord and hatred of each other. Talk of Galileeism! Show me the effects—are you better, wiser, kinder by your precepts? I will bring ten Mussulmans who shall shame you all in good-will toward men, prayer to God and duty to your neighbors. And is there a ——, or a Bonze, who is not superior to a fox-hunting curate? But I will say no more on this endless theme; let me live, well if possible, and die without pain. The rest is with God, who assuredly, had He *come* or *sent*, would have made Himself manifest to nations, and intelligible to all.

"I feel that I am sincere, and that if I am only to write '*ad captandum vulgus*,' I might as well edit a magazine at once, or spin canzonettas for Vauxhall.

"My work must make its way as well as it can; I know I have everything against me, angry poets and prejudices; but if the poem is a *poem*, it will surmount these obstacles, and if *not*, it deserves its fate. . . . My whole life has been at variance with propriety, not to say decency; my circumstances are become involved; my friends are dead or estranged, and my existence a dreary void. In Matthew I have lost my guide, philosopher, and friend. . . . Matthew was indeed an extraordinary man; it has not entered into the heart of a stranger to conceive such a man: there was the stamp of immortality in all he said or did;—and now what is he? When we see such men pass away and be no more—men who seemed created to display what the Creator *could make* His creatures, gathered into corruption, before the maturity of minds that might have been the pride of posterity, what are we to conclude! For my own part I am bewildered."

Again writing to Hodgson he says:

"The basis of your religion is *injustice;* the *Son* of *God*, the *pure*, the *immaculate*, the *innocent*, is sacrificed for the *guilty*. This proves His heroism; but no more does away *man's* guilt than a schoolboy's volunteering to be flogged for another would exculpate the dunce from negligence, or preserve him from the rod. You degrade the Creator, in the first place, by making Him a begetter of children; and in the next you convert Him into a tyrant over an immaculate and injured Being, who is sent into existence to suffer death for the benefit of some millions of scoundrels, who, after all, seem as likely to be damned as ever. . . . I do not believe in revealed religion, because no religion is revealed. . . . I will neither read *pro* nor *con*. God would have made His will known without books, considering how very few could read when Jesus of Nazareth lived. . . . As to your immortality . . . our carcasses, which are to rise again, are they worth raising? I hope, if mine is, that I shall have a better *pair of legs* than I have moved on these two-and-twenty years, or I shall be sadly behind in the squeeze into Paradise. Did you ever read Malthus on Population? If he be right, war and pestilence are our best friends, to save us from being eaten alive, in this 'best of all possible worlds.'

"I will write, read, and think no more; indeed, I do not wish to shock your prejudices by saying all I do think. Let us make the most of life, and leave dreams to Emanuel Swedenborg."

Again he writes:

"I am where I was, verging toward Spinoza; and yet it is a gloomy creed, and I want a better, but there is something pagan in me that I can not shake off. In short, I *deny nothing*, but doubt everything."

There was an interesting correspondence between Byron and Gifford, the famous editor of *The Quarterly Review*, and the following from a letter to Gifford, in June, 1813, may serve to round off our quotations:

"To your advice on religious topics I shall equally attend. Perhaps the best way will be by avoiding them altogether. . . . I am no bigot to infidelity, and did not expect that because I doubted the immortality of man I should be charged with denying the existence of a God. It was the comparative insignificance of ourselves and *our world*, when placed in comparison with the mighty whole, of which it is an atom, that first led me to imagine that our pretensions to eternity might be overrated.

"This, and being early disgusted with a Calvinistic Scotch school, where I was cudgeled to church for the first ten years of my life, afflicted me with this malady; for, after all, it is, I believe, a disease of the mind as much as other kinds of hypochondria."

WILLIAM WATSON'S LATEST.

SEVERAL points in William Watson's poem entitled, "The Unknown God," have elicited prompt comment. One is the fact that in the tenth stanza he seems to take issue with Kipling's "Recessional"; another point is the Pantheistic use (as it is charged) which he makes in his sixth stanza of one of the new logia of Jesus. The poem appears in *The Fortnightly Review* (September), together with a copyright notice requesting that not more than two stanzas be quoted in any notice of the poem. The first stanza refers to the realizing sense of God the poet gains when, "overarched by gorgeous night," he waves his trivial self away. The next four stanzas explain that this God whom he realizes is not the Jehovah of the Jews, "the mere barbaric God of Hosts," grown jealous of carven wood and graven stone, "man's giant shadow hailed divine." The next stanza, containing the reference to the logia, is as follows:

> "The God I know of, I shall ne'er
> Know, tho he dwells exceeding nigh.
> *Raise thou the stone and find me there,*
> *Cleave thou the wood and there am I.*
> Yea, in my flesh his spirit doth flow,
> Too near, too far, for me to know."

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The next three stanzas continue the description of Mr. Watson's God, as a Being unchangeable by prayer:

"Tho kneeling nations watch and yearn,
Does the primordial purpose turn?"

The next stanza is the one that flings a sort of challenge to Mr. Kipling:

"Best by remembering God, say some,
We keep our high imperial lot.
Fortune, I fear, hath oftenest come
When we forgot—when we forgot!
A lovelier faith their happier crown,
But history laughs and weeps it down!"

IS A GOOD HISTORICAL NOVEL IMPOSSIBLE?

PROF. BRANDER MATTHEWS does not go to the length of saying, in so many words, that a novel or drama can not be good and be historical at the same time; but he comes very near to saying that. He holds (*Forum*, September) that it is impossible for either a novelist or dramatist to reproduce with any degree of fidelity times other than his own, and that the greatest successes with such works of imagination have been made when the artist was least hampered by solicitude for historical accuracy. Shakespeare, he thinks, illustrates this truth most signally. He made no effort to suggest in "Macbeth" the primitive manners of Scotland; he wrought in "Julius Cæsar" as tho unconscious of any difference between his own contemporaries and the subjects of the Cæsars. He lent to all his personages the vocabulary, the laws, the usages which were familiar to the playgoers that flocked to applaud his pieces. Paul Veronese was another illustration of the same truth. His "Marriage at Cana" is frankly a revelation of the Italian Renaissance, uncontaminated by any guess at the manners of Judea in the first century. Professor Matthews quotes on this point M. Anatole France as follows:

"We can not reproduce with any accuracy what no longer exists. When we see that a painter has to take all the trouble in the world to represent to us, more or less exactly, a scene in the time of Louis Philippe, we may despair of his ever being able to give us the slightest idea of an event contemporary with Saint Louis or Augustus. We weary ourselves copying armor and old chests; but the artists of the past did not worry themselves about so empty an exactness. They lent to the hero of legend or history the costume and the looks of their own contemporaries; and thus they depicted naturally their own soul and their own century. Now what can an artist do better?"

The historical novel as we now know it, was, we are told, invented by Scott; and tho Ivanhoe, the Black Knight, and Robin Hood still appeal to the boy in us, they are less and less convincing to the man. The result, when Scott deals with medieval life, is unreal. His effort to body forth the very spirit of epochs and of lands wholly unlike the spirit of his own times in the British Isles was an inevitable failure. As Taine says: "After all, his characters, to whatever age he transports them, are his neighbors, canny farmers, vain lairds, gloved gentlemen, young marriageable ladies, all more or less commonplace, that is, well ordered by education and character, hundreds of miles away from the voluptuous fools of the Restoration or the heroic brutes and forcible beasts of the Middle Ages."

We quote further from Professor Matthews:

"The fact is, that no man can step off his own shadow. By no effort of the will can he thrust himself backward into the past and shed his share of the accumulations of the ages, of all the myriad accretions of thought and sentiment and knowledge, stored up in the centuries that lie between him and the time he is trying to treat. Of necessity he puts into his picture of days gone by more or less of the days in which he is living. Shakespeare frankly accepted the situation: Scott attempted the impossible. Racine wrote tragedies on Greek subjects; and he submitted to be bound by rules which he supposed to have been laid down by a great Greek critic. To the spectator who saw these plays, when they were first produced, they may have seemed Greek: but to us, 200 years later, they seemed to be perhaps the most typical product of the age of Louis XIV.; and a great French critic has suggested that to bring out their full flavor they should be performed nowadays by actors wearing, not the flowing draperies of Athens, but the elaborate court dress of Versailles. 'Phèdre' is interesting to us to-day, not because it is Greek, but because it is French; and some of Scott's stories, hailed on their publication as faithful reproductions of medieval manners, will doubtless have another interest, in time, as illustrations of what the beginning of the nineteenth century believed the Middle Ages to be.

"Not only is it impossible for a man to get away from his own country, but it is equally impossible for him to get away from his own nationality. Has any author ever been able to create a character of a different stock from his own? Certainly all the greatest figures of fiction are compatriots of their authors. We have had many carpet-bag novelists of late;—men and women who go forth gayly and study a foreign country from the platform of a parlor-car;—and some of these are able to spin yarns which hold the attention of listening thousands. What the people of the foreign countries think of these superficial tales we can measure when we recall the contempt in which we Americans hold the efforts made by one and another of the British novelists to lay the scene of a story here in the United States. Dickens and Trollope and Reade were men of varied gifts, keen observers all of them; but how lamentable the spectacle when they endeavored to portray an American! Probably most American endeavors to portray an Englishman are quite as foolish in the eyes of the British. Dickens twice chose to compete with the carpet-bag novelists; and if we Americans are unwilling to see a correct picture of our life in 'Martin Chuzzlewit,' we may be sure that the French are as unwilling to acknowledge the 'Tale of Two Cities' as an accurate portrayal of the most dramatic epoch in their history. There are those who think it was a piece of impertinence for a Londoner like Dickens to suppose that he could escape the inexorable limitations of his birth and education and hope to see Americans or Frenchmen as they really are: far finer artists than Dickens have failed in this,—artists of a far more exquisite touch."

Moreover, the chief value to be found in the novel as in the drama is necessarily absent from the historical novel:

"One of the foremost merits of the novel, as of the drama, is that it enlarges our sympathy by increasing our knowledge of our fellow man. It compels us to shift our point of view, and often to assume that antithetic to our custom. It forces us to see not only how the other half lives, but also how it feels, and how it thinks. We learn not merely what the author meant to teach us: we absorb, in addition, a host of things he did not know he was putting in,—things he took for granted, some of them, and things he implied as a matter of course. This unconscious richness of instruction can not but be absent from the historical novel,—or at best it is so obscured as to be almost non-existent."

Professor Matthews does not wish to be understood as desiring to rule the novelist out of historical fields; but he does not believe in holding him too rigidly to historical tests. His position is the same as that enunciated by Saint-Beuve in the following words: "The novel is a vast field of experiment, open to all the forms of genius. It is the future epic, the only one, probably, that modern manners will hereafter justify. Let us not bind it too tightly; let us not lay down its theory too rigidly; let us not organize it."

Is American Poetry Too Imitative?—In the course of a rather disparaging review of a couple of books of recent minor American verse, *The Saturday Review* observes that in character American poetry is "hopelessly like the mass of verse published by English writers." Says the writer, following up this line of thought:

"It is the rare exception to find a book of American poetry which savors of the soil. For the most part these writers, often so graceful, picturesque or sonorous, reveal to us less of their race and country than a single page of Sidney Lanier or Walt Whitman. Their interest is in the past, they look backward, not

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forward; and as with almost every visitor from the New World to Europe, they have a passion for everything that smacks of antiquity, that has a story lingering about it, a tradition from history or romance. Yet for those who accept the new, whose eyes look forward, what a great poetic kingdom is prepared! It needs strong spirits, certainly, to find poetic material in the new and the modern; and this explains their rarity: but the men will come in time."

A REMARKABLE CONFLICT OF OPINION ABOUT DANTE.

WHAT is called by E. Moore "a phenomenon without a parallel in the literature of any age or country" is brought out by him in an article on "Dante as a Religious Teacher." The chief object of his article (in *The Fortnightly Review*, August) he defines to be to vindicate Dante's theological position as a sincere and orthodox Catholic.

As the author's argument on this line is not yet complete and is to be continued in a subsequent number of the *Fortnightly*, we will not take it up here. Before coming to that argument, however, he devotes several very interesting pages to pointing out the remarkable diversity of opinion regarding Dante's religious attitude and, as well, regarding his literary powers. It is here that he finds "a phenomenon without a parallel." On the literary and artistic value of the great Florentine's work Mr. Moore says:

"The voice of adverse criticism seems now completely hushed, and the chorus of eager and often indiscriminating admiration holds the field. We can scarcely, therefore, conceive the possibility of Dante being the object of such vehement, not to say ferocious, condemnation as we read in utter astonishment in the pages of such eminent writers and critics as Voltaire, Lamartine, Goethe, Goldsmith, Leigh Hunt, and Walter Savage Landor. A few samples of these strange criticisms may not be without interest. This is the judgment of Oliver Goldsmith: 'Dante, the poet of Italy, who wrote in the thirteenth century . . . addressed a barbarous people in a method suited to their apprehensions. . . . He shows a strange mixture of good sense and absurdity. The truth is, he owes most of his reputation to the obscurity of the times in which he lived. As in the land of Benin a man may pass as a prodigy of parts who can read, so in an age of barbarity a small degree of excellence secures success!' Lamartine described Dante as 'un poète personnel et local.' Voltaire says of Dante: 'His reputation will go on increasing, because scarcely anybody reads him. . . . There are still found among us, and in the eighteenth century, people who strive to admire imaginations so stupidly extravagant and barbarous. The Divina Commedia is an odd poem . . . in which the author rose in parts above the bad taste of his age and his subject.' Considering that Voltaire described Shakespeare as 'sauvage ivre, sans le moindre étincelle de bon goût, et sans le moindre connaissance des règles' [a drunken savage, without the least sparkle of good taste and without the least knowledge of order], and that he preferred Ariosto to the Odyssey and Tasso to the Iliad, his censure is perhaps to be more valued than his praise. As to Landor, some of his abuse is almost too coarse to quote. Two or three sentences may suffice. 'I can not but consider the Inferno as the most immoral and impious book that ever was written.' Again: 'Dante (one must whisper it) is the great master of the disgusting.' Once more: 'The Marriage of St. Francis and Poverty is insipid and spiritless.' What an incredible description of one of the most exquisite episodes in the Paradiso! Finally, one of the most distinguished and learned professors whom the writer has known in a residence of many years at Oxford could seldom mention Dante's great work without characterizing it by an adjective which occurs only once in the Bible, and then as an epithet of 'heresies.' "

Coming then to the still more amazing diversity of views regarding Dante as a religious teacher, Mr. Moore continues as follows:—

"Confining ourselves, as our subject requires, to religious questions, or such social questions as lie on the fringe of religion in its practical aspects, we find Dante claimed by Roman Catholics as 'the Catholic Virgil,' or as 'the poetic Aquinas.' Several commentaries have been written to explain away anything in Dante that would jar on Catholic or orthodox feeling. Distinguished Roman theologians—most notably Cardinal Bellarmine—have written in defense of Dante's orthodoxy, protesting, and, as we shall endeavor to show, perfectly justly, against his appropriation by Lutheran or Calvinistic Reformers. A modern Roman theologian is even bold to say that, were all the libraries in the world destroyed, and the Holy Scriptures with them, the whole Catholic system of doctrine and morals might almost be reconstructed from the Divina Commedia. Several Popes (including Paul the Third, Pius the Fourth, Clement the Twelfth, and Pius the Seventh) have accepted the dedication of editions of the Divina Commedia, or of commentaries upon it. Nor did the Inquisition ever dare (with one local and insignificant exception, and this involving only the excision of three brief passages) to condemn a work containing so many scathing and by no means carefully guarded denunciations of abuses in the church and its leaders.

"On the other hand, Dante has been claimed by Protestants as 'a Reformer before the Reformation,' and that as early as 1556, as well as by numerous writers since down to our own day. Some have been so far carried away by this conviction as to imagine that by a sort of inspired clairvoyance Dante 'prophesied' of Luther in his anticipation of the great deliverer under the celebrated symbol of the 'Veltro' or Hound, because, forsooth, the words 'Veltro' and 'Lutero' are composed of the same letters! . . .

"Then, again, in our own day, we find Positivists and Agnostics sometimes claiming Dante as one of their prophets. Strangest, perhaps, of all is it to read that Auguste Comte himself used to regard the daily reading of a canto of the Divina Commedia and a chapter of the 'De Imitatione Christi' as an almost essential element in the spiritual self-culture of the religion of humanity. Once more, and finally, an enthusiastic follower of Swedenborg has indicated in a recent work a great variety of details in the divine poem which he declares to be in reality 'fore-gleams of that great dawn of light which has in this later time risen upon the world through the revelations granted to Swedenborg.' "

What makes this diversity of views all the more remarkable, says Mr. Moore in comment, is the fact that Dante was anything but a trimmer, the very last man to whom the thought would occur of being "all things to all men."

NOTES.

LEONCAVALLO has decided on "Trilby" as the subject of his next opera.

THE Duke of Argyll advocates desultory reading. In a speech the other day he said:

"I am bound to say I never had any other reading in my life. I to a great extent educated myself. I was at neither school nor college, and I have very often found that any success I had in speaking in public life and in Parliament was due to my having read what others had not read."

THE memorial erected to Alfred Tennyson on the site of the old Highdown Beacon at Freshwater near the west end of the Isle of Wight, is a Cornish granite cross, the column standing nearly forty feet high, with a Runic cross on top. The inscription is as follows: "IN MEMORY OF ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON, THIS CROSS IS RAISED, A BEACON TO SAILORS, BY PEOPLE OF FRESHWATER AND OTHER FRIENDS IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA." The cross is likely to become a sea-mark to all sailors approaching the Needles Channel.

MR. KIPLING was criticised by Canadians for speaking of Canada as "Our Lady of the Snows." In *Wee Willie Winkie* he refers to the criticism in the following humorous skit:

"There was once a small boy of Quebec,
Who was buried in snow to the neck.
When asked: 'Are you friz?'
He replied: 'Yes, I is,
But we don't call this cold in Quebec."

"GRIEFITH GAUNT," Charles Reade's well-known novel, was years ago dramatized by the author in collaboration with Mr. Coleman, a London manager. The latter will soon put the long-waiting play on the stage. He says:

"I have always thought it to be the best novel my friend Reade ever wrote, and Swinburne has described it as the finest thing in English fiction. To me the play is almost equally great, yet it has never been acted. Strangely enough, I had arranged with Reade for the production of it, acting the leading part, just before he went to Paris; but to my great grief Reade came home to die, and on his death the production was abandoned."

"Why has it never been taken up by any other managers?"

"Well, you see, it is largely a woman's play—a story of women's jealousies, vanities, and ambitions."

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SCIENCE.

THE THEORY OF "ALCOHOLIC SELECTION."

THE doctrine is advanced in a recent work, "The Present Evolution of Man," by an English writer, Mr. G. Archdall Reid (see THE LITERARY DIGEST, April 10), that intemperance, by killing off those persons that have an undue craving for alcohol, is an important factor in the elimination of the unfit and in the consequent progress of the race. This process of elimination he calls "alcoholic selection," and by it he accounts for the fact that in European nations, which have been subject to its action for centuries, alcohol does very little damage compared to its ravages among savage tribes to whom the effects of intoxicating liquors are entirely new. The same argument, of course, applies also to other narcotics, and, as readers of THE LITERARY DIGEST will remember, is applied to zymotic diseases as well, such as tuberculosis, syphilis, etc. Mr. Reid's ideas are set forth very clearly by him in a letter to *Science* (September 3), in the form of a reply to certain criticisms made on his theory. He says:

"I have shown that certain powerful narcotics (*e.g.*, alcohol and opium) are great causes of elimination; that races (*e.g.*, Greeks, Italians, South Frenchmen, Spaniards, Portuguese) which have long possessed a cheap and abundant supply of alcohol, for instance, are the least prone to excessive indulgence of all races on earth; that other races (*e.g.*, Anglo-Saxons, Scandinavians, Russians, etc.), which have had a less extended experience are more prone to intemperance; that yet other races (*e.g.*, savages of all kinds, whether inhabiting the frigid, the temperate, or the torrid zones), who have had little or no experience of alcohol, crave for that narcotic so intensely that, in the presence of an abundant supply and the absence of prohibitory laws, they perish of excessive indulgence; and have argued, firstly, that the craving for narcotic indulgence was inborn in man as a by-product of mental evolution; secondly, that the Italian, for instance, is more temperate than the American Indian, as a result of natural selection, *i.e.*, alcoholic selection; and thirdly, that to render a race more temperate we must eliminate, not drink, but the excessive drinker, for compulsory temperance must lead to the survival of the unfit and consequent retrogression of the race to the ancestral type, when the craving was stronger than it now is in a race which has undergone alcoholic selection.

"Had I proved my facts and used this line of argument as regards any physical structure I think all the world would have agreed with me; but, because I dwelt with the burning question of intemperance, I have met with numerous objectors, ranging from a clerical gentleman, who found distinct points of resemblance between Satan and me, and argued that, *therefore*, my theory 'must be a lie,' through Prof. Ray Lankester, who, while admitting the truth of the theory, apparently thought that a tendency to get excessively drunk might be necessarily correlated to extremely valuable qualities, up to Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace and to Professor Cockerell, who thinks 'that the human race has no natural craving for alcohol at all, but it has a craving for excitement and other states of mind which may be induced artificially, and that when the natural exercise of highly valuable faculties is denied, as is so often the case in our present civilization, artificial means, often highly injurious, will be resorted to.' But it is the absolute savage who is most prone of all races on earth to excessive indulgence, and surely, living, as he does, in a 'state of nature,' the natural exercise of 'highly valuable faculties' is not denied to him. Moreover, if Professor Cockerell is right, what is the difference between the civilization of the south and north of Europe, which permits in the former case the natural exercise of valuable faculties, but forbids them in the latter, for the north Europeans are much more drunken than the south Europeans.

"Let the reader think awhile. Why does he not get drunk? Is it because he constantly resists the craving, or because the craving does not exist in him? I think he will say, 'the latter.' But has he no acquaintance, reared and living under much the same conditions, who drinks to excess, tho all his interests call him to abstain? I think he is sure to have such an acquaintance. Now, in this respect nations like the Italians or the Spaniards are mainly composed of individuals like my reader, while nations like the American Indians or the native Australians are mainly composed of individuals like his unfortunate acquaintance.

"Here is a significant fact: old records seem to prove that the classic races were anciently much more intemperate than at the present time. For instance, the temperance question was formerly a burning one in Greece, where unhappy Helots were made to furnish 'awful examples' to the aristocratic youth. Here is another: the deadly narcotic opium has been in use for some hundreds of years in India, and never or very rarely does a native of that country take it to excess; it has been in use for about two hundred years in China, and most of the Chinese are temperate, tho some take it to excess; it has been recently introduced into Burmah, and, practically speaking, all Burmans take it to such excess that they perish of it, and, therefore, in their own country the English have forbidden the use of opium to Burmans alone, while permitting it to all other peoples, just as in Canada alcohol is forbidden to the aborigines alone. Here is a third: tobacco causes little or no elimination, and, therefore, the craving for it is as strong in races that have longest used it as among races to which its use is comparatively strange."

THE PROJECTILE OF THE FUTURE.

ACCORDING to Lieut. Col. Périssé, of the French army, a fortune awaits the man who shall invent a slow-exploding, high-power shell, and he will, in addition, be exalted in honor above all his countrymen, for the navy that possesses such a shell will be the victor in the next war. Col. Périssé explains exactly how this will be in a recent article in the *Revue Générale des Sciences*, and what he says forms the basis of a discussion of the subject in *Cosmos* (July 31) by M. B. Bailly, which we translate below. Says M. Bailly:

"Shells filled with high explosives have modified the conditions of artillery combats, but much less than might be supposed, and less than has been asserted. Nevertheless, their use raises the most serious questions and receives the earnest consideration of all who are interested in the subject. In an age when all nations are preparing for a final struggle, no one can be wholly indifferent to them.

"If a shell charged with melinite should penetrate an armored ship, it would undoubtedly cause frightful damage, sufficient to disable the most powerful vessel. But unless the shell should enter at an unprotected spot, which would be very unlikely, there would be no danger of this. A shell charged with high explosives will always burst when it touches a resisting obstacle, whether the armor be thick or thin; that is to say, it will burst outside of the ship attacked. In the former case, the charge, no matter how powerful it may be, will cause only insignificant injury; in the second case, part of the armor will be torn away, and some fragments of the hull will be thrown within; but the desired disastrous effect will not be produced.

"At first it was thought that as the projectile loses some of its velocity in traversing the protected walls it would be sufficient to modify the exploding fuse by retarding its effect a few thousandths of a second. Different systems have been proposed, including that which consists in placing the percussing device at the base of the projectile instead of at the point. No result was obtained, and for this simple reason, which was understood at once: a shell charged with melinite explodes from shock, instantaneously and spontaneously, as soon as it touches an obstacle, even when it is supplied with no detonator. Whether the moving energy of the projectile determines sufficient heat by its sudden stoppage, or whether, when the gyratory motion suddenly ceases, the interior charge keeps it up and produces heat by its friction against the interior walls of the shell, the result is the same; the shell explodes without causing the great damage that was intended.

"The proof of this fact brought about a revolution in the system of naval construction of several great maritime nations. Since these powerful projectiles can not penetrate armor, even of slight thickness, England, Italy, and Germany have generally abandoned thick armor. Thus there is a saving in cost of construction and, what is more important, in the weight of the hull;

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this last result makes possible a much more considerable radius of action.

"The problem to be solved is, then, to obtain slow-exploding melinite shells, which will not burst until after they have passed through armor, or at least until they have penetrated it. Such projectiles do not yet exist.

"We have said that it is useless to seek the solution of the problem merely in a modification of the fuse. We must find shells that do not explode spontaneously at the first shock; if such projectiles can be retarded in explosion only a few thousandths of a second after striking, the problem is solved. If we can obtain the absolute indifference of the charge, then we have only to invent a slow fuse.

"The mechanic, artillerist, engineer, or chemist who can solve this problem will render an immense service to our country (France); for, as Lieut. Col. Périssé says, 'for France in particular, the possession of shells of great capacity and slow explosion, would have the advantage of lessening in a considerable proportion the defensive and military value of the last naval constructions of her chief eventual adversaries.'

"M. Périssé adds:

"'In the next European naval war, the victory will belong to the side that has steel shells of high explosive capacity and slow action.'"—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

HOW A DRAGON-FLY SHEDS ITS SKIN.

THE following account of how a dragon-fly sheds its larval skin, emerging as the perfect insect, is contributed by Rev. A. East to *Knowledge*, August 2. The accompanying illustrations, which are from actual photographs of successive stages of the process, assist in placing it before us with kinetoscopic vividness. Says Mr. East:

"When full-fed the dull-brown eyes of the larva become brilliant green, being indeed the color of the perfect eyes within; the larva then crawls laboriously up some stick or water plant, the body close pressed against the stem, and assisted by the scales and spines of the abdomen—not disdaining the friendly help of a pencil if such be forthcoming, and trying apparently, with vigorous switchings of the abdomen, the stability of its chosen support.

"After about ten minutes to half an hour of drying, the part immediately behind the eyes and above the wing-cases swells, cracks, and opens, and discloses the bright-green body of the perfect insect. Slowly the body emerges; the brown cases of the eyes are thrust farther and farther aside, and the enormous head with its compound eyes protrudes fully out; at the same time the little crumpled wings are drawn out of their cases, then the legs one by one, the imago now hanging with head bent right back and the wings pointing upward, the whole insect hanging, with

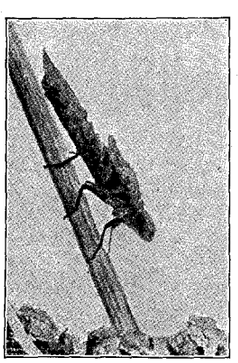

FIG. 1.—LARVA OF THE DRAGON FLY.

FIG. 2.

six segments of the abdomen exposed, wet and limp from the dry nymph skin, still clinging firmly to its support by its stiff and empty legs. (See Figs. 2, 3, and 4.)

"After hanging like this for some ten minutes or more, until the legs are strong enough, the insect, by a quick contraction of the body, suddenly lifts its head, and seizing with all six legs the dry nymph skin, quickly withdraws the remaining four segments of the abdomen out of its sheath, and hangs by its legs alone (Fig. 5). The wings now hang down and begin slowly to expand, at first dull and mealy-looking; as they lengthen they get flatter and clearer, until in about half an hour they show all the beauty of their gauzy texture. They are still, however, very pale

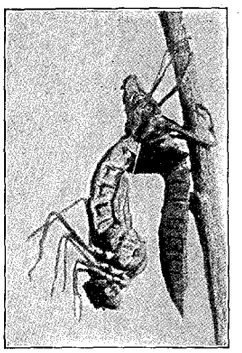

FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

green and soft, and the body of the insect is still wet and limp; but as the fluid which fills the animal is exuded drop by drop, the body stiffens and darkens, the wings dry, and are raised and then lowered to the position so well known. After about five hours from first emerging from the water, the perfect dragon-fly is ready with quivering wings for its new life, often, alas! to be cut

FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.

short within an hour by a hungry bird. It may seem incredible that birds should be able to catch so rapid a flier, but when first out the dragon-fly is not so very rapid on the wing, and is, when fluttering or resting, a most conspicuous object. The poor ethereal *demoiselle*, almost before she has tasted the joys of her new and beautiful life, is snapped up by a vulgar sparrow."

THE GEOLOGY OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.

GEOLOGY is usually regarded as the study of the earth's past development, but it is equally true that changes are now going on upon the earth's surface, and that other and probably greater ones will take place during future ages. Geological science must of course treat of these as well as of the earth's past history. The fact that the present as well as the past belongs to geology was not recognized at first by geologists, most of them regarding the earth's development as having been completed; but it is now one of the first principles of the science. This fact is brought out by Prof. H. S. Williams in the concluding section of an article on "The Geological Progress of the Century," contributed to *Harper's Magazine*. Says Professor Williams:

"The present, no less than the past, is a time of change. That

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is the thought which James Hutton conceived more than a century ago, but which his contemporaries and successors were so very slow to appreciate. Now, however, it has become axiomatic—one can hardly realize that it was ever doubted. Every new scientific truth, says Agassiz, must pass through three stages—first, men say it is not true; then they declare it hostile to religion; finally, they assert that every one has known it always. Hutton's truth, that natural law is changeless and eternal, has reached this final stage. Nowhere now could you find a scientist who would dispute the truth of that text which Lyell, quoting from Playfair's 'Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory,' printed on the title-page of his 'Principles': 'Amid all the revolutions of the globe the economy of Nature has been uniform, and her laws are the only things that have resisted the general movement. The rivers and the rocks, the seas and the continents, have been changed in all their parts; but the laws which direct those changes, and the rules to which they are subject, have remained invariably the same.'

"But, on the other hand, Hutton and Playfair, and in particular Lyell, drew inferences from this principle which the modern physicist can by no means admit. To them it implied that the changes on the surface of the earth have always been the same in degree as well as in kind, and must so continue while present forces hold their sway. In other words, they thought of the world as a great perpetual-motion machine. But the modern physicist, given truer mechanical insight by the doctrines of the conservation and the dissipation of energy, will have none of that. Lord Kelvin, in particular, has urged that in the periods of our earth's infancy and adolescence its developmental changes must have been, like those of any other infant organism, vastly more rapid and pronounced than those of a later day; and to every clear thinker this truth also must now seem axiomatic.

"Whoever thinks of the earth as a cooling globe can hardly doubt that its crust, when thinner, may have heaved under strain of the moon's tidal pull—whether or not that body was nearer—into great billows, daily rising and falling, like waves of the present seas vastly magnified.

"Under stress of that same lateral pressure from contraction which now produces the slow depression of the Jersey coast, the slow rise of Sweden, the occasional belching of an insignificant volcano, the jetting of a geyser, or the trembling of an earthquake, once large areas were rent in twain, and vast floods of lava flowed over thousands of square miles of the earth's surface perhaps at a single jet; and, for aught we know to the contrary, gigantic mountains may have heaped up their contorted heads in cataclysms as spasmodic as even the most ardent catastrophist of the elder day of geology could have imagined.

"The atmosphere of that early day, filled with vast volumes of carbon, oxygen, and other chemicals that have since been stored in beds of coal, limestone, and granites, may have worn down the rocks, on the one hand, and built up organic forms on the other, with a rapidity that would now seem hardly conceivable.

"And yet while all these anomalous things went on, the same laws held that now are operative; and a true doctrine of uniformitarianism would make no unwonted concession in conceding them all, tho most of the embittered geological controversies of the middle of our century were due to the failure of both parties to realize that simple fact.

"And as of the past and present, so of the future. The same forces will continue to operate; and under operation of the set unchanging forces each day will differ from every one that has preceded it. If it be true, as every physicist believes, that the earth is a cooling globe, then, whatever its present stage of refrigeration, the time must come when its surface contour will assume a rigidity of level not yet attained. Then, just as surely, the slow action of the elements will continue to wear away the land surfaces, particle by particle, and transport them to the ocean, as it does to-day, until, compensation no longer being afforded by the upheaval of the continents, the last foot of dry land will sink for the last time beneath the water, the last mountain-peak melting away, and our globe, lapsing like any other organism into its second childhood, will be on the surface—as presumably it was before the first continent rose—one vast 'waste of waters.' As puny man conceives time and things, an awful cycle will have lapsed; in the sweep of the cosmic life, a pulse-beat will have throbbed."

HOW TO GET RID OF THE SMOKE NUISANCE.

THE smoke nuisance, which is practically non-existent in those cities of the United States where anthracite is the principal fuel, has become a serious matter in places where large quantities of bituminous coal are burned. Efforts to appeal to the cupidity of furnace-owners by showing that valuable fuel is being poured into the air through their chimneys, have failed, for it has been conclusively shown that the amount of carbon present in the blackest smoke is relatively very small. Efforts at present seem to be directed along the line of health-regulations, but even here the interested factory owners respond in many cases that finely divided carbon is an excellent antiseptic. The one thing on which all agree is that smoke is a nuisance, and as such should be abated. In a recent paper read before the Franklin Institute, Prof. R. H. Thurston gives some idea of how this may be done. We quote an abstract from *The Scientific Machinist* (August 15), as follows:

"The preventive, he says, which operates more or less effectively may be considered in the following order, viz., legislation, skilful operation of furnaces, special construction of furnaces.

"Legislation may be made effective (it seldom is) simply because it is actually practicable to suppress the nuisance by available means. Boards of health should have the enforcement of this matter.

"The methods of reduction of smoke are well understood. They all accomplish the result in substantially the same way—insuring ample air supply and amply high temperature of ignition at that point on the surface of the fuelbed at which decomposition, without ignition, would otherwise occur. Air supply in excess at the bridge wall, or at some neighboring point, is a common expedient. The gradual coking of the fuel when first thrown into the furnace on a dead plate near its mouth is an old practise. The recent forms of mechanical stokers, tho not always successful, seem peculiarly well adapted to secure smokeless combustion. The 'down-draft' furnace invented by Watt, and improved in modern times and by contemporary inventors mainly, is one of the most interesting and curious of the later systems of combating the nuisance. There are so many forms of apparatus which are capable of more or less completely preventing smoke, that where there is a will the only obstacle to success in finding the way lies in the financial aspect of the case. Both the methods and the apparatus needed are now available, and are well known.

"In some western cities, St. Louis notably, the success met with in the reduction of the smoke nuisance has been satisfactory and encouraging. Even Pittsburg is profiting by these modern ideas.

"The quantity of fuel lost in smoke is too small to make its reduction important as a matter of simple economy. Experiments in the Sibley College laboratories, about two years ago and since, have shown that, under the condition of these experiments at least, it was possible to produce, 'deliberately and with malice prepense,' the densest smoke being secured that was practicable, about 15 pounds of soot per ton of fuel employed. The usual figures for dense smoke ranged from 10 to 12 pounds. Of this soot about one half was carbon, the remainder mainly unconsumed hydrocarbons, 10 to 15 per cent. of ash and, if collected outside the furnace, perhaps 2 per cent. of moisture.

"It was found that no smoke was ever produced in an atmosphere of oxygen. With restricted air supply the maximum just stated was obtainable. Low-temperature combustion and restricted oxygen supply seem to be the two main conditions favoring smoke production. Singularly, the composition of soot was found often to be substantially that of the coal from which it was produced. A reduction of the proportion of smoke made effects a reduction correspondingly, perhaps proportionately, in the percentage of carbon contained in the soot. Thus coal used at St. Louis was found to contain 50 per cent. carbon, 36 per cent. hydrocarbons. Its smoke contained 25 per cent. carbon and 10 per cent. hydrocarbons. Where no hydrocarbons exist, smoke can not be produced by any fuel. It is evident that in the average case we can not expect reduction of smoke to result in economy of fuel or expenses. It will cost more to extinguish smoke in most cases probably than can be gained by its suppression and its utilization as fuel."

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A GREAT POWER-STATION IN SWEDEN.

THE following description of a Swedish waterfall, which it is proposed to utilize for the production of electric energy as is now done at Niagara, is quoted by *Cosmos* from an article by M. F. Laur in *Aluminium:*

"In Sweden there is an enormous waterfall, the most powerful uncontrolled natural force in Europe—the falls of Kraengede in Joeurtland, estimated at 160,000 horse-power. No one knows what intrigues, what desires, what diplomacy have centered about this fall—this enormous fortune that has been running away for centuries, at the disposition of man, but unused by him. The story will one day be told.

"Finally, however, Englishmen, Germans, and Russians have been forced to take a back seat, and a Swede of French descent, Dr. Gustave de Laval, the inventor of the famous turbine, together with the French engineer, M. Gin, the inventor of the process for making rubies, are to develop the treasure.

"What are they going to make with 160,000 horse-power?

"That is the question!

"Aluminum—that goes without saying; rubies; carbid of calcium; cerium; carborundum; sodium—yes, but all this will utilize only a few thousand horse-power. There will remain to be used 140,000 to 150,000, and I will note only the most plausible hypothesis; the iron industry is the only one that can make use of such a Niagara in such a place, far from cities.

"We have then in prospect an iron-works, and one in which electricity will play the principal rôle. Several years ago, some engineers, notably Taussig, discovered the means of producing iron by treating the ore electrically, and with 1,000 horse-power can be obtained 20,000 tons of iron a year.

"The falls of Kraengede can then throw on the market 3,200,000 tons of iron or steel.

"What an avalanche! and how all our plans may be turned upside down by it!

"It has not yet arrived, my metallurgical brothers, and it is not yet time to extinguish our furnaces, but some day or other—we shall see.

"Our congratulations to the French engineer who has been made director of the work, and may he be equal to so great a task as that of utilizing a fall of 160,000 horse-power!"—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

Salicylic Acid as a Food-Preservative.—"It is well known to-day," says *The Sanitarian*, "that salicylic acid is a powerful antiseptic. As such it retards the action of organized ferments like the yeast plant and putrefactive bacteria. It hinders and prevents fermentation, the souring of milk, and the putrefaction of milk. Its action upon unorganized ferments is even more powerful. It completely arrests the conversion of starch into grape-sugar by disease and pancreatic extracts. This action is directly opposed to the process of digestion, and, were there no other reason, the use of salicylic acid should be universally condemned. These facts in connection with salicylic acid have been recognized very thoroughly in legislation. The use of the acid has been condemned by most of the European countries having pure food laws. In France it is forbidden by law. In Austria, Italy, and Spain it can not be used without the danger of incurring a heavy penalty, and all South American states having pure food laws have absolutely forbidden its sale. The laws of many of the States forbid its use. By a decision of Mr. Wells, the dairy and food commissioner, the use of salicylic acid in food is prohibited in Pennsylvania. I wish to call attention here to another fact in connection with the use of salicylic acid which is of extreme importance, viz., the sale of preservalines, preservatives, etc., under various high-sounding names, intended for use in private families. A number of these, claimed to be perfectly harmless, are on the market, but actually contain salicylic acid as the main ingredient. The conscientious and careful housekeeper should put an absolute veto upon the use of any such compound. There is rarely any need for them, since, when pure fruits and vegetables are used and the proper directions for sterilizing by heat, etc., are carried out, canned or preserved goods of all descriptions can be prepared that will remain in good condition for years without the aid of any preservative."

The Vistascope: A New Optical Toy.—This device, by which an observer on the level of the ground is enabled to view the surrounding landscape as it appears from a height of several hundred feet, is the invention of W. A. Eddy, well known for his success in making and flying gigantic kites. The following description is quoted from *The Scientific American*:

[The vistascope is] "an instrument which enables persons on the ground to view the surrounding country with almost the same effect as if they were at the elevation of the kite. The vistascope looks something like a huge magic lantern. It is designed on the lines of the ordinary camera obscura, but the pictures are thrown from a mirror set in the top upon a sheet of semitransparent paraffin paper. This does away with the reversed effect of the ordinary camera obscura.

"By lying on his back with his feet toward the view to be seen, the observer sees the landscape stretched before him in its proper condition. There is, moreover, a peculiar effect of being in the air on a level with the vistascope and looking out over a level stretch of country. The apparatus recently used by Mr. Eddy measured 5x2½ feet and was carried up by a team of Eddy kites reinforced by a Hargrave box-kite. The vistascope was sent up to a height of 150 feet. Mr. Eddy lay flat on his back with a powerful field-glass and looked up at the reflector of the camera obscura. He was able to see objects with great clearness; houses and trees a mile and a half distant were distinctly seen. The kite cord was let out until the vistascope was 300 feet in the air, but the trials were less satisfactory, because of the swaying of the kite line, which rendered it extremely difficult to follow the motion of the apparatus with the field-glass."

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

A NEW abrasive called "krushite" is described by *The Engineering and Mining Journal*. The new material is used for sawing and polishing stone. "It is made of the best quality of steel, tempered by a new process, which is claimed to make it tough and unbreakable under the saws and rubbers. It is said not to crumble to powder as crushed steel does, nor to split like ordinary shot, but, being perfectly round and evenly graded, it cuts faster and scratches but little."

"AN English scientist, Dr. H. Campbell, has written an essay dealing with the physiologic effect of laughter," says *The Medical News*. "When we laugh, he says, we increase the play of the tension of the lungs, and that one result of this increased tension is to arrest the blood-flow in the lungs and thus induce the taking of deep inspirations. These latter are healthful processes, for many parts of the lung are not called into active use during ordinary breathing. Hence laughter is an exercise and a good one."

The Electrical World, as quoted in *Science*, reports a paper by M. Pierard describing an application of the phonograph in Spain. "It appears that the telephone is there used in place of the telegraph, and it was found that the speed of transmission was greatly limited by the operators at the receiving end, who could not transcribe the messages sufficiently rapidly; at present the receiving-operator repeats the message into a phonograph, from which it is then transcribed; this repetition is also heard at the transmitting end and therefore serves as a control for the correctness of the received message; the speed is eighty-six words per minute, which means double this amount if the return message is included. It is thought that this is the first time the phonograph has been put to this use."

"CHILDREN'S feet grow so fast," says *The Hospital*, "that to keep them always properly shod is a matter that requires considerable care and some expenditure. It matters very little to a child's future well-being that at some period of its childhood the sleeves of a jacket have been too short or the skirt of a frock too scant; but the compression of feet in boots too tight or, even worse, too short, may be a cause of torment in future years. Infinitely better are bare feet than clumsy, heavy, ill-shapen boots. In the winter the feet may indeed want some protection from cold and wet, but during a great part of the year children may safely and healthfully go barefooted. Some mothers, by no means of the poorer class, are convinced that the comfort and symmetry of the feet in maturer years are largely to be gained by giving them freedom during the time of growth."

A COMMUNICATION of M. Chesnau to *The Chemical Record* regarding the remarkable sparks given off by metallic uranium is quoted by *Electricity:* "M. Henri Moissan showed that ingots of uranium produced in the electric furnace give very brilliant and voluminous sparks when struck by hard bodies. The author desired to determine the temperature of these sparks, with a view to the utilization of this metal, now obtainable with ease by the Moissan furnace. He proved that these sparks at a single blow instantly set fire to explosive mixtures of air with methane and firedamp. This permits a calculation of the minimum temperature of the sparks. Mallard and Chatelier have shown that to inflame such explosive gaseous mixtures requires a heat of 650° continuing for ten seconds, equivalent to 1,000° for one second. This is notably higher than the temperature of any sparks from flint and steel, as has been placed beyond doubt by the Firedamp Commission. He finds that the uranium sparks also kindle cotton wicks wet with alcohol, naphtha, etc. He suggests practical applications in detail."

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THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

THE LAMBETH ENCYCLICAL AND BIBLE STUDY.

THE encyclical summing up the conclusions of the recent Lambeth Conference (see LITERARY DIGEST, August 28 and September 4) is still the subject of varied comment in the religious press. *The Watchman* (Baptist, Boston) calls attention to the fact that the American Episcopalians present in the Conference declined the overtures to place the church in this country under the jurisdiction of an Anglican primate. "They want unity along with independence; but insist in any case upon the independence." *The Pilot* (Roman Catholic, Boston) styles the encyclical "an exceedingly vague document." As to other points *The Pilot* says:

"It [the encyclical] is painfully timid in its opposition to divorce. . . . Catholics can not forbear a smile at the grandiose resolution on friendly relations with the moribund 'Old Catholic' communities in Germany and Austria; the seriousness with which the Episcopal missions in Mexico and Brazil are considered; and finally the advances to the unresponsive schismatical churches of the East. The favorable mention of the report on religious orders in the Anglican communion—a favor inconceivable a few decades ago—shows pleasantly, however, the working of the leaven of Catholic ideas in the Anglican body."

But that feature of the encyclical which has attracted most attention are the statements with regard to the critical study of the Bible. *The Christian Intelligencer* is not pleased with the utterance of the Conference on this subject. It says:

"The Conference could have spoken with more power, and could have rendered the Scriptures, the church, and the world a better service, if it had said, as it could have said with truth, that the course of the higher criticism during the present century, or during the sixty years of the reign of Queen Victoria, has been marked by many unfounded assertions which have been proved to be enormous blunders; that a speedy means of attaining notoriety is found in making assaults upon the truthfulness and reasonableness of the Scriptures, and that not a few men, animated apparently by a love of notoriety, have used this means to gratify their desire, and that under protestations of dealing with the Scriptures as literature, that is, according to the rules of literary criticism, those rules have been utterly disregarded, the facts of the history of literary criticism utterly ignored, and the books of the Bible been subjected to a criticism to which no other book or books have been compelled to submit.

"Such a statement the Conference had ample warrant for making. It did not make it. The whole world would have received incalculable relief if it had been made by the two hundred bishops of the Episcopal Church. The utterance of the Conference is valuable and something to be thankful for, so far as it goes. It is a pity that it did not go farther and rebuke the highly speculative, unfair, and often blundering criticism which has weakened at least the faith of men in the Scriptures as a revelation made by the Holy Spirit, and has been one of the causes of the increase of lawlessness at the present time, which is deplored even by men who do not accept the belief of the evangelical churches."

The Methodist Recorder (Methodist Protestant, Pittsburg) quotes Bishop Whitehead, of Pittsburg, who was a member of the Conference, as saying that it is a recognized fact that the Episcopal Church permits a wide latitude in the interpretation of the Bible. There is no reason, it is said, to be disturbed if the essence of the Scriptures is preserved—that is, that they contain the progressive revelation of God. Bishop Whitehead then proceeds to say:

"What difference does it make if a man has scruples about the Joshua and sun episode, or the miraculous speech of Balaam's ass, or if he question the first chapter of Genesis, and prefers to view it allegorically, if he believes that he has a duty before God, and that the Bible is his successive revelation? It is the entire spiritual lesson, and not the incidental, that is important. Truth may be taught by allegory. The Episcopa Church believes in the Bible; holds it to be the word of God, His revelation, and yields the broadest right of criticism, which does not interfere with the definite fact of Christ's mission. There is no need for alarm. Only hold fast with reverence to the intrinsic truth of the Bible."

On these utterances *The Recorder* comments as follows:

"Nevertheless the great fact remains that the Bible is a book for the common people, for the unlettered and the unlearned as well as for the scholar and critic. The mass of human mind is not qualified to make these subtle distinctions. The ordinary, uncultivated intellect can not separate the 'intrinsic' truth of the Bible from the truth of the facts by which the intrinsic truth is conveyed. Make him to doubt the facts and there is to him no 'intrinsic truth.' The mass of mind, and this includes most of it, for the really learned are few—demands a Bible that is true in fact, and will not be satisfied with any allegory. Prove to it, so that it shall accept it, that Genesis is an allegory and the words of Jesus metaphor, and, instead of impressing 'intrinsic truth,' you have robbed it of the firm foundations of faith, of solace, and of hope. If this world were a world of scholars alone, we could have more sympathy with these recently expressed views of Bishop Whitehead and the Lambeth Conference, but since the world is mostly made up of men of plain mind and unused to critical distinctions, it is unworthy a great church, whose office is to comfort and confirm, to waken by giving a stone for bread."

IS THERE A DEAD LINE IN THE PULPIT?

THE article by Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler on "Shelving the Minister at Fifty" (see THE LITERARY DIGEST, September 4) is made the subject of discussion in several church papers, some of which question Dr. Cuyler's statement that there is "an arbitrary and abominable line of limitations" drawn by the churches against calling a minister to the pastoral charge of a church after he has passed the age of fifty.

The Christian Observer (Louisville) says:

"The best way to keep the old men from preaching is to talk about the 'dead line.' The more that is said about a 'dead line,' beyond which no minister can expect a call from any church, the less likely are the old men to receive calls. For fashion rules the world. There are fashions in dresses and coats, in houses and furniture, in court-houses and church buildings, in the shapes and the contents of books and newspapers, even in coffins and tombstones. Some one says that there are fashions in theology; that is, one age enjoys and profits by one mode of stating the doctrines of the old yet ever new Gospel, and another age prefers another method of stating them. Certainly there are fashions in hymns, each generation has its own favorites; and fashions in sermons, for the standard of pulpit oratory has varied. Why then should there not be fashions in ministers, in forming pastoral relations?

"Every lamentation over the 'dead line' is a declaration that it is unfashionable to call an old man as a pastor. If the congregations conform to the fashion in this, as they do in all other matters, will it be wonderful? If you think old ministers should not preach, talk about the 'dead line.'

"It may be doubted whether there is any 'dead line.' In a certain city, which shall be nameless, there are perhaps a score of ministers who are not pastors; and all of them except two retired from the active *pastoral* work before they were fifty; and the two exceptions did not retire till they were seventy. Any reader can test the matter by making a list of all the ministers he knows who are not in charge of churches; and he will find that there is no particular age at which ministers leave the pastorate. It may be found that most retire under thirty or over sixty."

The Christian Register (Unitarian, Boston), referring to Dr. Cuyler's article, says:

"It may be true now and then that such a man as Dr. Cuyler describes, still vigorous and in all ways the better fitted for ministerial duties by the experience he has gained, is denied a pastorate 'simply and solely because he was between fifty and sixty years old.' But we believe that a case like this is the rare exception.

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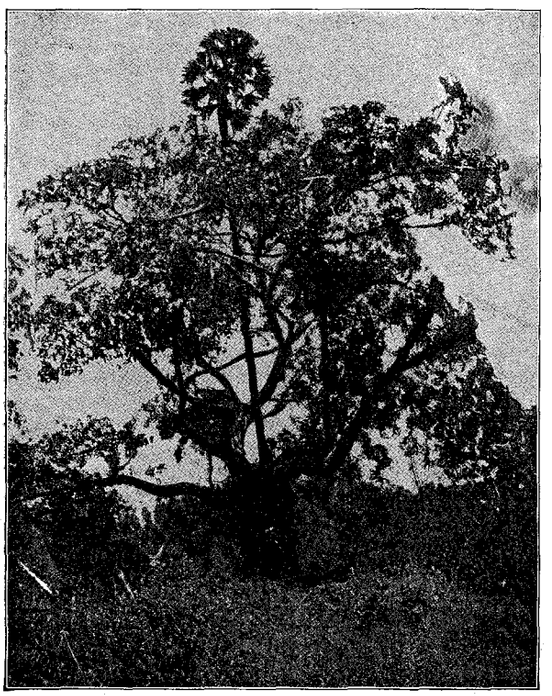
As a rule, we do not believe that the man who in any other occupation would not be considered old at fifty would in the ministerial profession any more be so considered, unless deservedly. If in any occupation a man does not grow, does not enlarge his knowledge, does not gain by his experience, is not from day to day and year to year constantly more of a man, then, whatever his calling, he is old and less useful from the time when the halt comes in the processes of growth. But true men, whatever their calling, do not thus grow old or lose their usefulness except as bodily or mental infirmity may lessen their powers. Men whose spirit is perennially fresh and living do not lose their hold on those about them,—any minister who has living, growing manliness of character and influence least of all. There is no 'dead line' for any man,—physician, teacher, artisan, preacher,—save as he is weakened either by some physical infirmity which he may not avoid, or by the spiritual infirmity which, of whatever sort, he can avoid."

THE WORSHIP OF DOUBLE TREES IN INDIA.

SOME curious double trees which are deified n India are described and explained by a French writer, M. Hector Léveillé. He notes at the outset that these are not simply sacred trees, that is, the objects of veneration, but divine trees, that is,



UNION OF A FIG TREE AND A PALM.

the objects of actual worship, as was the oak among the Druids. Says M. Léveillé (*Cosmos*, Paris, July 31):

"The trees described in this article belong to the category that we have qualified as divine, since among the pagan peoples of India, where, in the words of Bossuet, everything is god excepting God Himself, they are almost regarded as gods, and special virtues are attributed to them. . . .

"These venerated plants . . . are, usually, two different species that by chance have become intimately associated. It is just this association, this intimate union of two species, that secures to them the worship that is paid them—paid not to the individual but to the more or less complete mixture of the two beings. . . . The Indians see in the cohesion or union of two plants an image or symbol of reproduction. It is therefore not surprising that they render to this principle, veiled under the poetic appearance of two plants, a worship that follows logically from the foundations of paganism and accords with its traditions.

"In the immense extent of the territory of India, these facts of the mutual grafting or the union of two plants, altho not common, are still not extremely rare. They present themselves spontaneously and naturally, and it is just because they are a freak of nature—which is itself a god for the pagan—that they provoke astonishment, admiration, and so, finally, the worship of the people of India. We shall see, in what follows, when we have given the rational explanation of these phenomena, that it would not be difficult to reproduce them artificially. . . .

"At Vellore, in the principal street of the city, is a *Melia Azadirachta* completely surrounded by a *Ficus religiosa*, so that the first tree appears to grow from the second. The effect produced is very curious. These trees are the object of great veneration on the part of the inhabitants of the region.

"At Courtallum . . . is a *Borassus flabelliformis* that is completely imprisoned by a *Ficus Bengalensis*. This group, hidden in the midst of a jungle, is no longer the object of worship, being doubtless not noticed by the infrequent visitors to the place.

"The third time that we witnessed the close union of two trees of different species was in the colonial garden of Pondicherry. There we were able to form an exact idea of how it took place. A *Ficus Bengalensis*, having sprouted and grown on the top of a palm-tree, the *Caroyta ureus*, let fall its long adventive roots, destined to be transformed into trunks, and already one of them was about to bury itself in the soil.

"A fourth example of dendrologic union is at Colombo, and it is this that is represented in the illustration. It is again a *Borassus*, which is closely held at its base in a *Ficus*, whose roots can be seen—veritable vegetable serpents, which seek to imprison yet more the palm-tree, whose higher head overtops that of the fig-tree that encloses it.

"We will now give the explanation of the phenomenon. It has doubtless been remarked that in the four cases that we have mentioned the *Ficus* is always one of the factors of these unions. We may say that it is an important factor, the most important, even. In fact the adventive roots that it lets down from its branches . . . are so many tentacles that singularly facilitate its rôle, when it is placed in the proper conditions to surround another tree. . . .

"Altho the ultimate cause of the union of the two trees is none other than the great germinative faculty of the seeds and the development of adventive roots in the banyan-tree, the immediate and effective cause, at least in the majority of cases, should probably be attributed to a bird of the family of climbers.

"The ruffed parrot (Psittacus torquatus), so abundant in India, is very fond of the glutinous drupes of the fig, on which it generally feeds.

"When a parrot carries the ripe fruit of the fig in its beak and lays it down either on the top or in some accidental cavity of a tree . . . the development of a fig-tree on that tree becomes possible and will take place if, on the one hand, the hosts of the air and the various insects respect the seed, and if, on the other hand, favorable circumstances, such as the rainy season, preserve it from the sun and by abundant and continued humidity favor its germination. . . .

"There are cases where we must look for another explanation. Such seems to be the case with the example illustrated here. It is probable that in this case there was a simple approximation (a rare thing) of the two trees. There would have resulted simply a kind of graft by proximity . . . if the property of letting fall adventive roots and the incredible suppleness of the woody tissues of the *Ficus* had not brought about the union of the two trees as our illustration shows it."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

No Religion in French Prisons.—"Some members of a Social Science Congress, which was held at Paris some time ago," says *The Hospital*, "visited a French prison, and after they had been shown through it one visitor asked to see the chapel. He was informed that there was none, and on pressing for an explanation of this, was told that the Government did not consider religious instruction to be necessary for criminals. In France, where agnosticism, like all else, goes uncompromisingly to its logical conclusion, one can understand this attitude; but one doubts if it is wise. For the mission of religion to the criminal is to teach him 'just the meaning of his sorrow'; to explain to him why society takes upon itself to incarcerate him in a cell. He sees on one side himself and his desires; on the other society, his enemy, which frowns on his aims and punishes himself; re-

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ligion should stand between to explain that law of regard for others, that limitation of the liberty of each for the benefit of all, on which our civilization is based. To minds already intellectually trained this may be done by means of ordinary reasoning: but for the criminal, narrow-minded and often ignorant, the appeal to a Higher Power governing the world is necessary. The belief in a divine law will help to interpret the human laws. The method, as we have said, might not satisfy a close student of dogma; but as all the churches teach the fundamental truths of morality, it is better for criminals to learn the reason religion gives for being honest, patient, and self-controlled than to eat their heart out in rebellion against destiny and the law, ignoring their own share in bringing on their punishment."

FUTURE CHRISTIAN DISCOVERIES.

THE recent discovery of the "Sayings of Jesus" in an ancient ruin in Upper Egypt gives a special interest to an article by Prof. James Hardy Ropes, of the Divinity School of Harvard University, on "What We may Expect from Christian Discoveries" in the future. Referring to certain archeological work now in progress, Professor Ropes says (*The Congregationalist*):

"The older sources of discovery have not lost any of their importance. Geographical exploration is just now prosecuted at Jerusalem with brilliant success by Mr. F. J. Bliss, who has been solving vexed questions of topography by following the ancient wall round the southern side of the city. Such work as his will illustrate the Old Testament, will surely bring to light architectural antiquities, and may disclose inscriptions. From the libraries more discoveries will be made of the same sort as in the past. New manuscripts of the New Testament, some of them of great interest, doubtless remain to be discovered. Only last year one was bought by the Russian Government in Asia Minor; an interesting one has lately been reported from Athens; a few years ago a Syriac translation, perhaps the oldest translation of the gospels known, was found at Mount Sinai. Quite as much may be expected from the careful investigation of manuscripts already known, but little examined, which lie on the shelves of scores of libraries."

After speaking of the "Teaching of the Twelve Apostles" and other rare fragments of ancient literature which have come to light in recent years, Professor Ropes says: "The one great prize sought for and dreamed of by students of the New Testament and early church history is the work of Papias, bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia, in the first half of the second century after Christ. His interpretations of the oracles of the Lord must give us the key to the various knotty and disputed questions pertaining to the origin of the New Testament."

Professor Ropes also raises the question whether the gospels are in danger of being superseded by these new-comers, "or, to put it more reasonably, that our idea of our Lord could be considerably modified by some new knowledge." On this he says:

"It may be confidently replied that this is wholly unlikely. It is probable that the canonical gospels have preserved practically all the tradition of the evangelical history which came beyond the borders of Palestine at all. The writers of the second, third, and fourth centuries were profoundly interested in all that could be learned of the life of Christ. They occasionally mention extra-canonical sayings that they have picked up here and there, and reverence for the gospels does not prevent them from transmitting such. But of these, all that can possibly be thought genuine do not amount to twenty, and no one of them is sure enough or important enough to change our conception of Jesus and His teaching. One gets strongly the impression from studying these remains that the work of the writers of our gospels, the laboriousness of which we seldom realize, was done with a thoroughness which practically exhausted the sources of knowledge at their disposal. We have, doubtless, not indeed a complete account of Jesus' teaching, but yet a complete account of the topics on which He taught and of the ideas which He most emphasized.

"And it is further to be noted that outside tradition can seldom or never have such certainty as that contained in the gospels of the New Testament. Our reliance on them depends partly on their early date, now well ascertained, but also on the guaranty of the Catholic Church. They contain the history as those churches which had heard the apostles preach received it. They were accepted because they offered not new tradition but old, and the writers were in a sense the agents of the churches. The perpetual tradition of the church accredits them as it does not any other documents whatever. But the final test must be the consistency and intelligibility of the account of Jesus and His teaching which the gospels furnish. The real difficulty with all such tradition as these logia, or the other extra-canonical sayings of Jesus that have been collected, is that they lack the support which in a large mass of material the several parts give to one another, and that they have no context to make them intelligible. No one can tell what surprises may be in store, but of rivals to the gospels there can be no question, and of valuable direct light on the life of our Lord there can be comparatively little hope. Indirect light, ancient documents which will make clearer to us the conditions in which our gospels were written and how they were collected, and information about the complex life of the early church, we may hope for in considerable abundance."

THE NEW AND OLD THEOLOGY COMPARED.

LAST May an address was delivered by appointment before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in Charlotte, N. C., by Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Smith, on the above subject. The address is now published in pamphlet form, and it is a rather elaborate effort to set forth the distinctive features of the new theology and to examine its points of departure from the old. Dr. Smith does not conceal his dissatisfaction with this departure, and his characterizations are to be read, of course, as those of an avowed antagonist to the new theology.

This theology, he begins by pointing out, represents a tendency rather than a clearly defined system of doctrine; it is more like a school of thought in a transition period; its deliverances are more or less vague, its terms indefinite. Nor has it any lines of theological or ecclesiastical demarcation, but it runs through all churches and all schools of theology, and it has no accredited representative who can speak for it with authority. Nor does Dr. Smith discern in it any bond of union save that of discontent with past forms of belief and the determination to set them right.

In searching for a starting-point for his survey, Dr. Smith thinks the doctrine of the divine immanence furnishes the best approach, being the regulative principle of the whole body of new theology so far as it has any such principle. This doctrine, as held by the reformers, has Schleiermacher for its father, and Spinoza for its grandfather. Dr. Smith makes an effort to describe it, tho he finds it impossible to state with any confidence just what it means in the mouths of its advocates. In all their terms defining the difference between this doctrine of divine immanence and the old doctrine of what they term divine transcendence, their immanence takes on the complexion of pantheism. Dr. Smith says:

"According to it, God is in some mysterious way undefined and, perhaps indefinable, so actually, intimately, closely interposed with some sort of a constant, habitual, ordinary connection with the world both of nature and of grace, that there is no need and there can be no place for any extraordinary interposition—or 'interruption' as they prefer to style it—and hence the miracle becomes a superfluity and an impertinence. Some would do away with the miraculous entirely, as Schleiermacher does in the gospels, sweeping away every miracle in the narrative, admitting into his whole scheme two only: the miracle of the creation, and the miracle of the Christ. Few go so far as this, but there is among them all a marked disposition to minimize the miraculous; a disposition often not least influential when unavowed, appearing frequently in incidental comment upon the miracles themselves or in innocent and insinuative paraphrase of the narrative containing them.

"God being so intimately immanent, and that, too, by virtue of

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so constant, so habitual, so ordinary a connection, the distinction between the natural and the supernatural is greatly obscured, in many instances virtually, if not formally, obliterated. Schleiermacher himself recognized no difference whatever between natural and revealed religion—the natural is supernatural, and the supernatural natural; not many are so extreme as the great leader, but there is in the whole school a constant tendency to eliminate the supernatural, and this in every department and in every direction. According to the explanations and interpretations of this school a modern Nicodemus would have small occasion ever to ask, How can these things be? and the natural man will be amply capable of receiving and knowing all these things, for they are very naturally discerned. This tendency to eliminate the supernatural is at once indicated, promoted, and measured by one of the popular fads of the day, the craze for analogies that has prevailed now for some years—a movement that finds its full flower in the brilliant fancies and coruscating word-play of such writers as the late Henry Drummond.

"From the same seminal source develops also the conception of a progressive revelation—tho I must record here my protest against such palpable perversion of the word revelation—that the revelation of God to man is 'a continuous process through the reason, through experience, through the courses of history, or through the events and discipline of life,' a gradual unfolding of knowledge under favoring auspices, a perfectly simple and a perfectly natural process, reducing what we have been wont to call divine inspiration to mere illumination, the product of spirituality, differing in degree not in kind, the only difference between those who still continue to be called the inspired writers and the devout of later ages lying in surroundings and circumstances, or what this pretentious period loves to call 'environment.'"

From this doctrine of a progressive revelation, we are told, it is a very short step into the field of radical biblical criticism. Critics who enjoy the advantages of a continuous revelation can not be expected to hesitate at amending any utterances of men who were nearly twenty centuries behind the present stage of revelation! Closely allied with this same doctrine of divine immanence is the new doctrine concerning the mission of Christ in the world. His mission, it is held, is to confer upon man a paramount expression of this immanence. Emphasis is laid not upon the atoning death of Christ, but upon His incarnation, as being "a sort of infusion or injection of the divine into the race, a sort of genetic, organic, permanent connection of God with mankind, with the race as a race." From this, again, follows the idea that the conservative view of human depravity is an anachronism and an absurdity, and the further idea that God reveals Himself to and allies Himself with all peoples in all ages, the only difference being in differing degrees of clearness; Judaism is no more divine in its origin than Buddhism.

Dr. Smith states the further result of the new doctrine as follows:

"Under the dominant influence of this conception of the divine immanence, you discover on all hands and in increasing measure the disposition to bring every department of Christian doctrine, and every phase of religious experience, all of providence and all of grace, under the dominion of one great natural law, that of progressive development; revelation is a process, the incarnation is a process, the atonement is a process, regeneration is a process, justification is a process, probation is a process, judgment is a process. The entire field of eschatology needs revision and restatement; death is not decisive of destiny, there is no limit in time or eternity to probation, to discipline, to development. This latter you will remember as one of the first departures of the new theology to arrest attention and enlist discussion; it broke out like a rash over the face of current literature, and for a while was epidemic; it was simply a symptom, merely one feature of a perfectly consistent and strictly logical progress from the principle involved in this new idea of the divine immanence, and the end is not yet. The progressives tell us:

"'We are gaining along the heights of faith broader views of redemption in which we may hope to comprehend and harmonize the new scientific truths of the correlation of all things, and the laws of the development of the universe.'

"God's grace is only one department of natural law, one phase merely of the universal process; and the whole race, as a race, under the influence of this great natural law, sweeps on as a part of a grand cosmic development through æons of ages toward some far-off, divine event, undefined as yet by this theology, but having, in my judgment, apparently but one logical issue, viz., annihilation for countless myriads of the human race, with some sort of a beatification for the comparatively few favored ones whose happy lot it shall be finally to form the ultimate crown of the infinite series in the measureless future! This seems the only logical result; but the logical and theological are not always absolutely identical, and 'along the heights' of the latter I sometimes seem to catch fugitive glimpses of views which squint toward a species of restorationism or universalism, as a result of the all-embracing love of the immanent God.

"Here ends our survey of the field as a whole; and our deliberate verdict upon the scheme in its entirety, its inherent nature, and its logical results, must be that nothing but the pale ghost of a spiritualized pantheism stands between it and the doom of a blank atheism."

Following this general survey, Dr. Smith proceeds to a more detailed consideration of the new doctrines, and of their relation to the Westminster doctrines, concluding that no other system than the Westminster has the inherent force to resist the rising tide of the new theology and avert the danger that will ensue should the new doctrines win the day, namely, the danger that the world may be ultimately orphaned of its God as it is fast being robbed of its Bible.

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

THE Jews in the commune Hosszupaly, Hungary, have presented over 1,000 crowns to the Protestant congregation for the erection of a church.

REV. B. C. ATTERBURY, M.D., a Presbyterian missionary, has had conferred upon him by the Emperor of China the imperial order of the Double Dragon, in recognition of his medical services during the late war with Japan.

ONE of the Chicago papers is authority for the statement that there are twenty-seven ministers of a leading denomination in and around that city whose salaries during the last year were $400 or less. The conclusion reached from this and other instances is that clerical poverty is on the increase.

THE Moravian Church is seriously considering the question whether it may not be better to make over its Greenland mission to the Danish Lutheran Church. The latter has some 8,300 Eskimos under their charge, who are rather increasing; the Moravians something over 1,600, who are decreasing.

THE London *Church Bells* speaks with favor of the suggestion that the next conference of Anglican bishops, probably to take place in 1907, should be held in America. It admits that to the English mind such a proposition is "a little startling," but sees no reason in the nature of things against it, if any substantial benefit is likely to result.

THE Salvation Army has opened a home for ex-convicts in Chicago. The building used is four stories high and not only provides a home but also workshops. The management proposes to open the doors to all ex-prisoners who can not find employment, and to give them work and to provide for their wants until they are able to secure positions.

IN 1847 a Lieutenant Maclagan joined the Madras division of the Indian Army, and in 1852, after applying himself diligently to the duties of his profession, studying languages, and eventually becoming the interpreter of his regiment, retired. This Lieutenant Maclagan and the present Archbishop of York are one and the same person, and besides his pension he now draws a salary of $50,000 a year.

THE following notice was lately given in an English pulpit: "The service on Sunday morning is at 10:30 A.M. The supposition that it is ten minutes later is a mistake. Young men are not excluded from the week-night service. The seats in the front portion of the church have been carefully examined. They are quite sound and may be trusted not to give way. It is quite legitimate to join in the singing. The object of the choir is to encourage, not to discourage the congregation."

PROF. W. M. RAMSAY, D.C.L., LL D., a noted archeologist, who has been studying Asia Minor and its different peoples for twelve years by personal investigation, bears this testimony in his volume "Impressions of Turkey," to the worth and work of American missionaries in Turkey: "Beginning with a prejudice against their work, I was driven by force of facts and experience to the opinion that the mission has been the strongest, as well as the most beneficent, influence in causing the movement toward civilization, which has been perceptible in varying degrees among all the peoples of Turkey, but which has been zealously opposed and almost arrested by the present Sultan with the support of the six European powers."

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FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

ORIENTAL AND OCCIDENTAL CIVILIZATION.

SINCE the Turk has turned and rent at least one of his many enemies, tho a small one, his friends in Europe have a greater opportunity to make themselves heard. Bismarck, in conversation with some Austrians, declared that the Turks are really the only gentlemanly people of the Orient. The Christian nations there, the Bulgarians, Servians, Armenians, etc., he regards as thoroughly degenerate from a moral point of view, and altogether unreliable politically. As to the Greeks, their behavior during the war, and after it when asked to pay up, should open the eyes of their champions. The *Handelsblad*, Amsterdam, one of the most violently anti-Turkish papers, which can not believe that the Armenians did anything to arouse the wrath of their masters, nevertheless finds room for a lengthy article in which the advantageous position of women in Turkey, from a legal point of view, is set forth. We take from it the following:

"The position of Turkish women is in some respects better than with us. The climate is mild, the soil good, and material want is therefore unknown to the women. Young girls are as free with them as with us. The work in factories which ruins the health of many women with us has, so far, been spared their Turkish sisters. What they need is education and greater knowledge of the law. For the Koran, the only recognized law-book, favors them. According to the Koran the husband must pay for his wife—but to herself, and she is to retain free use of her money. Uneducated as the women are, they do not know how to get their rights if their fathers pocket the dowry. The same is often the case when a woman is entitled to an inheritance. It is true that a man can easily obtain a divorce; but he must recompense the wife, and pay for the education of the children until they are nine years old, during which time the mother has them under her care. Even after that she may retain them, tho at her own expense. Education is now progressing in Turkey, and the women will gradually learn of their rights. How they think of their position themselves, nobody knows, as strangers rarely meet them."

Dr. Mehemed Emin Effendi, from whose book we have quoted before, thinks Europeans make a serious mistake in judging the needs of Eastern nations by their own wants. Orientals, he says, have much the same faults and virtues as other peoples, and they claim the right to be governed according to their own ideas, like other peoples. But the Westerner, whose greatest fault is intolerance, can not believe that other races may hold just opinions, tho different from his own. In the following he endeavors to prove how biased we are in our ideas:

"In European papers one may often read a note like this:

"'*A terrible act of popular justice* recently took place in the little American town X. A negro, who had assaulted a white girl, was in jail awaiting trial. The exasperated people stormed the jail, and took the miscreant to a public square, where he was tied to a pole, and saturated with oil, etc.'

"The European reader then thinks as follows: 'Splendid people, these Americans; they take care that justice overtakes the evil-doer swiftly, and do not wait for their slow bureaucracy. A little rough they are, perhaps, but a young nation must be forgiven for that; at any rate, they know what's right.'

"Now, if such things were possible among the Mohammedans, in Turkey or Morocco, the newspaper paragraph would read like this:

"'*An act of characteristically Asiatic* (*African*) *bestiality* has recently taken place in the Turkish (Moroccan) town X. A young Christian (Jew) had been thrown into jail in consequence of the lying accusations of his enemies. A fanatical mob stormed the jail, took him to the public square, ill-treating him in the most brutal manner on the way. Arrived at their destination, the rabble tortured the unfortunate man to death in the most barbarous manner, etc.'

"Here the reader would argue as follows, or rather the papers will do it for him:

"'It is very characteristic that the authorities did not interfere. But nobody need wonder at this; Turkey has long since shown that she is neither willing nor able to defend her Christian subjects. We must interfere. . . .'

"That such interference encourages the dangerous elements to commit their depredations under the protection of the foreigner, your wise Westerner can not see."

Emin Effendi acknowledges that, if the European nations are really strong enough to exterminate his race as they have exterminated the American and Australian aborigines, then argument is useless. But he believes that the Oriental has greater powers of resistance, and he wishes to do his share in preventing a life-and-death struggle between races who are too equally matched to insure the speedy victory of either.

Even Cesare Lombroso thinks we Americans and Europeans have still too much to learn, to throw stones at others. Lombroso loves the English-speaking peoples most, but, like the hen in Hans Andersen's "Ugly Duckling," "he tells us disagreeable things, and by that one may always know one's true friends." He says in the *Deutsche Revue*, Stuttgart:

"It is a mistake, tho a very common one, to suppose that we are steadily progressing. Highly developed nations often sink to a low level, and nations advanced to an extraordinary degree in some things are strangely conservative in others. England has realized the most liberal monarchy in Europe, yet she preserves the privileges of her lords and goes too far in her religious intolerance. And practical, positive England holds to her own weights and measures, in defiance to all Europe, and to the detriment of science and trade.

"The people of the United States, the most progressive in the world, remain far behind in all arts and sciences which can not be made to return immediate practical results; they know of no better cure for anarchy than the gallows, and persecute the yellow and black races."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

INCREASE OF LIQUOR-DRINKING IN FRANCE.

FRANCE, formerly a very sober country, has, since the ravages of her vineyards caused by the phylloxera, become a victim of alcoholism. The people have acquired the taste for something stronger than wine, and tho the vineyards are gradually recovering, and the vintage is good, Frenchmen find the "*petit bleu*" too mild a beverage. The saloon-keepers, as elsewhere, are only too willing to increase the evil. The *Alcohol*, Paris, relates the following:

"Liquor-drinking by order, that is the latest! The ships which arrive at Caen from Norway and England must be discharged very quickly. The stevedores of the place are, without exception, also saloon-keepers, and the 'longshoremen can not find work unless they spend a certain amount of money for the stevedores' benefit. Every hour the latter claps his hands, the men come up and 'take a drink,' and wo to the laborer who refuses. Thus are the white slaves handed over to the destruction of alcohol. Any one can understand what this continual drinking must lead to. But can not the Government interfere?"

Even the *Journal des Débats*, a paper very much averse to sensational articles, is alarmed at the rapid increase in the consumption of spirits in France. The paper says:

"The state, in its quality of chief guardian of public morals and hygiene, is the natural enemy of alcoholism, and combats it officially with the most meritorious zeal; as, for instance, in the primary schools, where special courses inform the children of the incalculable evils of drunkenness; anything to increase the army of officials in France.

"But the state acts very differently in its capacity as tax-collector. The income derived from the liquor-tax is one of the strongest supports of the budget, hence the state has a direct incentive to encourage the consumption of alcohol. We are sorry to say that the efforts in this direction are anything but sterile. With charming candor the secretary of finance relates that

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drunkenness is on the increase in provinces which formerly did not contribute much to the liquor-tax. Midi, Nimes, Montpelliers, Beziers, Cette, all use more alcoholic beverages than formerly, and the official report adds: 'This progressive rise in the income from this source is a matter of congratulation to the administration, but things might be still better if it were not for excise frauds.' Indeed, from King Alcohol's point of view, the 'progress' is very satisfactory. At Montpellier the consumption was 3.6 liters [3.8 quarts] per head in 1893. In 1896 it had risen to 5.48. Similar conditions are reported from other parts of the country, as the following statistics show:

	1893 Litres	1896 Litres
Nimes	4	5.19
Marseilles	7	8.15
Nice	4.4	5.19
Avignon	4	6.20
Cette	5	11.65
Paris	7	7.65
Havre	15	15.38
Rouen	16	17.15
Nantes	5	4.73

"Thus only one city showed a slight decrease. In every other case the increase has been positively alarming. The worst of it is that liquor-drinking is spreading among people who were not formerly addicted to it. It was confined to the Western ports and the great industrial centers, and there was a hope that the population of the wine-producing districts would resist the ravages of King Alcohol. The official reports have exploded this illusion. The vineyards of Gard and Hérault have recovered from the phylloxera, and wine is as cheap as it was in 1875. But the population is turning more and more to alcohol. We must confess that we can not share the satisfaction expressed by the authorities at this state of things. We can not fail to notice the signs of social decomposition. It is necessary to intervene by a licensing law which modifies the pernicious act of 1881, which has so enormously increased the number of liquor-stores."

The *Hamburger Nachrichten* expects that prohibitory legislation will be the next thing in France; but fears that the law will be as powerless to prevent drunkenness among Frenchmen as among other peoples.—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

"DOLLAR WHEAT."

THE estimate of the world's harvests as compiled by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture—generally counted as among the most reliable estimates—shows a shortage of nearly twenty per cent. on the annual consumption. In Canada, in Great Britain, and in Northern Germany the crops have been good and the present high prices are giving joy to farmers elsewhere than in the United States. *The St. James's Gazette* says:

"Whether the crop is deficient or not, the mere threat of shortage has sent prices bounding upwards to a figure which the British agriculturist despaired of seeing again. His crop is this year abundant and good; every one is congratulating him upon his luck upon being able to take a fair profit instead of making a loss; a roseate picture of a revival of agriculture and a return of prosperity to village, farm, and hall is painted for us; and we are told that the whole country will share—as it unquestionably will—in the improvement in the lot of those whose livelihood is in the soil. There is but one blot on the pleasant prospect—that the public will have to pay slightly more for its quartern loaf. But is it a blot?"

The Scotsman, Edinburgh, does not think the price of bread will rise so much as seriously to harm the poorer classes. "A sixpenny loaf is not a thing at which even the humbler industrial classes need turn pale." In France the rise in wheat has given a chance to the free-traders to demand a reduction in the tariff on breadstuffs. M. Meline, the Premier, assured a deputation of Paris aldermen that the Government would make reductions, if necessary, but he doubted that the necessity would arise. According to the *Temps*, Paris, he expressed himself to the following effect:

France will have this year a harvest at eighty-five to ninety-five million hectoliters; last year it had only seventy million. In some parts of Europe there is a shortage, but England, Germany, and Spain have as good harvests as last year. If the Americans keep prices up too high, their exports will decrease in favor of Argentina and Australia. Besides, the French harvest will not be on the market for a few weeks. Prices are not yet too high; in 1895 and 1896 they were specially low in France. The potato crop is good, and meat is cheap.

The knowledge that their own crops are fairly good fills the Europeans with generosity toward the American farmer, who is heartily congratulated upon his good luck. This abundance of wheat, it is thought, will kill the cause of free silver and Bryanism. "The Western farmers," says *The Daily News*, London, "see now that the price of silver has no relation to the price of wheat. . . . They have no desire to receive pay for this year's harvest in silver dollars worth half the gold dollar." Many financial papers nevertheless doubt that "general prosperity" will return to the United States merely because the price of wheat has risen. *The Bullionist*, London, remarks that we "see prosperity a long way ahead and go out to meet it while it is only a mere speck on the horizon," and that, before we reach it, "the boom has completely overshadowed the reality." We condense its long article on the subject as follows:

"The Americans have ideas of their own, and very large ones, as to the value of good crops. They still feel about them as they used to feel years ago. When they were 40,000,000, a surplus of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat meant a great deal to them. But a big crop has now to be spread over a much greater area, and the country as a whole derives much less benefit from it. A larger proportion of it has to be retained for home consumption, and a proportionally smaller surplus is available for export. Formerly from one third to one half of the whole wheat crop might have been spared, but even under severe pressure not more than one fourth of it can now be diverted from home consumption.

"Last year similar conditions obtained in the wheat market to those of to-day, the only difference being that they did not take effect till later in the season. About the middle of September the wheat gamblers in New York and Chicago woke up to the fact that India, Australia, and Argentine would have to import instead of exporting; prices were rushed up about eighty per cent. in a few weeks, and McKinley was carried into the White House literally on top of a wheat boom. The speculators, of course, greatly overshot their mark. The total export of wheat was only about 140,000,000 bushels, and to make up even that moderate total the stock had to be reduced to the lowest level of recent times.

"The new season starts with abnormally small stocks of old wheat and a new crop far short of the optimistic estimates of a month ago. There is to be no 600,000,000-bushel crop, or anything like it. The Government's estimate for August was 450,000,000, and even the sanguine private calculators do not go much beyond 500,000,000. Allowing for reduced stocks, the surplus for export can not exceed 125,000,000 bushels—20,000,000 or 30,000,000 less than last year.

"The farmer gets his advance right enough, but the Americans themselves pay the lion's share of it. The West can enjoy famine prices only at the expense of the East as well as at the expense of Europe. If famine prices were to hold all through the season, three fourths of the burden would fall on the poorest class of American citizens. In benighted Europe short crops and dear bread have never been considered arguments for a boom. We expect as their natural sequel not prosperity but hard times, and thus they are already interpreted on our own stock markets.

"What the Americans are discounting so widely at present is a short crop of wheat, much of it poor in quality; the smallest corn crop they have had for years, and artificial prices of their own making. When they tire of their make-believe prosperity they will have to let themselves down, gently or otherwise, to real business."

The Monetary Times, Toronto, thinks that Canada is more likely to profit by high prices of wheat than the United States. Canada, so argues that paper, has more open land, and hard times

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in Europe will induce many settlers to seek her shores. The paper adds:

"It generally happens that when high prices for food grains rule, and Europe requires largely to increase the imports of these forms of food, the stream of gold flows to America. But it is possible that, instead of gold, American securities will come from Europe, indirectly, in payment for wheat and corn. An unusually profitable export trade, in spite of the towering tariff wall, could scarcely prevent a considerable expansion in the import trade of the United States, as well as of our own, if the republic had not imported so largely in time to avoid the new tariff rates. One year's high prices, with a good harvest, will not suffice to create overflowing prosperity, but they will come as a welcome relief, reviving hopes and giving new energy to enterprise."

The German financial papers indicate that Europeans have not yet recovered their confidence in American securities, and will seek to get rid of as many as they can while the boom lasts here. —*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

KLONDIKE: THE OTHER SIDE.

ALTHO the British contingent of gold-seekers who invaded California in the Forties was as strong as any, and the rush of Englishmen to Australia, the Transvaal, Rhodesia, and even Venezuela proves that the Britons have not lost their taste for an exciting search after the yellow metal, the British press is doing its utmost to dissuade readers from going to Klondike. As dissected by dispassionate English correspondents, the news from the far Northwest is not very encouraging. We condense the following from *The Daily Chronicle*, London, whose correspondent has been on the spot:

At least 7,000 men and 2,000 animals have become blocked between the sea and the summit of the pass, a distance of eighteen miles. The trail is impassable, and strewn with dead horses and piles of stores and discarded impedimenta, the whole scene suggesting the retreat of a defeated army. Many abandon the struggle. The 'boomers' of the Skaguay route are criminally responsible. The whole Pacific coast is gold-crazy, and there appears to be a nefarious conspiracy between the press, the outfitters, and the steamship companies to push the boom regardless of consequences. It is an iniquitous business, and thousands are being lured to their ruin. The finds are evidently much exaggerated. The steamer *Portland*, reported to arrive with $2,000,000 worth of gold, really brought only $200,000 to Seattle.

The St. James's Gazette points out that the stories of fabulous wealth in the Klondike district reach Europe from New York, but not from Seattle or Vancouver. One of these New York despatches began thus: "It is reported that the *Weare* has on board sixty miners, who come direct from Klondike, and there is no telling the amount of gold they have got. It has been estimated from $500,000 to $1,000,000," and our contemporary comments upon this as follows:

"He would indeed be a simple soul who did not find a strange irony in the statement that 'there is no telling the amount of gold' on the *Weare*. What does the news come to? That there is an inexplicable discrepancy between the amount of gold 'expected'—in New York and elsewhere—as the result of the summer diggings and the amount actually brought to Seattle. . . . Mr. Ogilvie, the Dominion land surveyor, is reported to have said that seventy millions of gold is in sight. . . . That may be very comforting to the company-promoter, and may assist him in his philanthropic designs to enrich all who may entrust their money to him; but we should like something far more definite. Meanwhile he has already secured a considerable sum of hard cash from the public. The winter is before him, during which he may operate on the strength of what Mr. Ogilvie has 'in sight,' and appease the fears and anxieties of those who have already invested by telling them to wait until the summer. No doubt there is plenty of gold on the Yukon; but it is the obvious interest of too many people to exaggerate the amount and minimize the difficulties and expense of getting it."

The Standard reports that scurvy and starvation are sure to do their work among the diggers during the winter:

"At St. Michael's food is already sixfold the Seattle prices, and there is no prospect of any succor. St. Michael's is practically no nearer to Dawson City than it is to New York. Last year 3,500 tons of supplies were inadequate for 2,000 persons; this year not more than 4,200 tons of everything—tools, food, clothing, and whisky—can be got up the river. At Dawson City are over 7,000 persons, to face a winter which involves nine months of darkness, with a thermometer 70° below zero. The conditions of the settlement prevent more than 2,700 finding work or wages. But at the entrance to the passes are thousands of men cursing or weeping at their inability to enter the land of gold, which is barricaded by a barrier of frost and starvation."

The British contemporaries admit that some rich claims have been discovered, and that the stories told by the lucky few are exciting enough to turn any man's head. But they point out that only men of experience have a reasonable chance to find rich claims, and that one is likely to succumb to hardships of climate and starvation before he have that experience, unless his constitution is robust and his past life has been such as to enable him to adapt himself to the circumstances. *The Westminster Gazette* says:

"We should like very much to know what premium the insurance companies would charge for insuring a man starting for Klondike. The risks, we imagine, would be considerably greater than war risks. There is certainly no one on the Indian frontier now who will run so many chances of losing his life as the emigrant for Klondike. Yet, tho you point this out and prove it to demonstration, your real gold-seeker will go all the same. If there are three chances that he will lose his life, and one that he will make his fortune, he will take the one chance notwithstanding."

The Daily News points out that it is not necessary for all to make good finds in order to enrich the district and the Dominion, and to create a brisk boom. Tho only a few mines may pay, the chance of others paying will bring men into the country and keep them there as colonists. There are districts in the Transvaal where there are either no paying mines or only one paying mine. Yet the mere hope of gold does its work. You needn't get gold, but only keep thinking you are going to get it. The paper concludes as follows:

"The moral of the foregoing, therefore, is that where gold is widely disseminated it only takes but a small percentage of dividend-paying mines to insure the active operation of many non-dividend-paying ones, and there are numerous indications, says Mr. Telford Edwards, that this is exactly what is likely to happen in Rhodesia."

Ernst v. Hesse-Wartegg, the German globe-trotter, thinks that at least the danger of anarchy is less in the new gold-fields than elsewhere. He believes that the Canadian mounted police, like the Cape mounted police and the Natal mounted police and similar forces in Australia, is fully able to maintain order. He says in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*:

"It is a proverbial fact that life and property are well protected in the British colonies, and that most distant of British possessions, the far northwest of Canada, is no exception to the rule. Of the shooting and fighting, the murders which followed every new discovery of gold in the United States, nothing has been heard in the Klondike district, simply because a detachment of the mounted police was on the spot from the beginning. I saw this force in 1876 when it had just been organized, and became the terror of all smugglers and adventurers. Later I met the mounted police when they had arrested the Sioux, who annihilated General Custer's cavalry. When the Canadian half-breeds rebelled under Louis Riel, the mounted police was raised to an effective strength of 1,000 men, and it has never been reduced. It is truly an *élite* corps. Wherever these able horsemen show themselves, smugglers and Indians vanish. They travel with the

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most astonishing celerity from one part of the Dominion to another. They are not specially well paid, but young men of the best English and Canadian families are anxious to join this force, whose duties are very varied and exciting. They are organized like the Irish Constabulary, and are such picked men that they would know how to command respect even without carbine, sword, and revolver."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

THE COMPLAINTS OF INDIA.

THE official mouthpieces of the British Government have evidently been instructed to prepare the public for the possibility of a long struggle in India. The London *Standard* admits that the situation is grave. *The Times* remarks that the funds lately raised by the Indian administration "will presumably be expended on pending military expeditions." *The St. James's Gazette* says:

"It will not be the fault of some among us if the pacification of the Indian frontier does not begin to bear a certain resemblance, in the newspaper reports, to the suppression of the revolt in Cuba and the reestablishment of Spanish authority in the Philippines. Day after day we have heard that the tribes were quieting down, and on the top of each of these comfortable assurances has come information of some new rising, or the persistence of the old. It is now time to drop these soothing phrases. There is a very serious war on hand in India."

Yet the rising of the tribes on the northern border of India can not possibly seriously affect British rule. It would be otherwise if the rest of India were also to revolt, and it is with a view to this possibility that the European press examine into the causes of Indian discontent. A formidable array of grievances is enumerated. Among the Hindus, dissatisfaction is caused chiefly, it is alleged, by crushing taxation, corruption, and the overbearing manner which the English exhibit toward the natives. The *Vossische Zeitung*, Berlin, thinks the English make a great mistake by failing to settle down among the conquered natives. If Englishmen were to become subjects of the Indian Government, the latter would be forced to act much more gently. Karl Tanera, the Austrian traveler, expresses himself in the main as follows on the treatment accorded the natives:

An Englishman in India expects to be treated like a demi-god, and rarely shows the Hindus civility. The Moslems he treats a little better, not from choice, or because he respects the Moslem more, but because the latter will not stand such treatment as that accorded to the Hindu. The Frenchman who goes to Algiers, the Russian who settles in Siberia, the emigrant who goes to America, generally stays for good in his new home. The Englishman in India has only one aim—to get rich and to return as soon as he has made money enough. The Spaniards, the Portuguese, the Dutch, have left lasting mementos of their rule in the countries they once possessed or still hold. England has built nothing to remind future generations of her presence. On the contrary, the English destroy. They carry off the noblest works of art, and never spend a shilling in repairs.

Four years ago the mints of the native states were closed. There is a positive scarcity of small coin. Often I could not make a purchase because the people could not change a rupee. Yet the interest on the Indian debts must be paid in gold. Another serious grievance is that the English do not respect the religion of the natives. The people of India have little or no national patriotism, but their religious feeling is very strong. The Briton, however, treates the Moslem and the Hindu with equal contempt, altho the Christian missionaries have made little or no impression.

That India is as ready as she is willing to revolt must be doubted, but she is getting ready. The superstitious belief in the Englishman's superiority is certainly gone. Many of the natives have studied abroad, are intellectually much superior to the English officials sent to govern them, and resent deeply that they are ruled by inferior men. The evident superiority of Continental goods imported into India also destroys English prestige. Lastly the British troops—outside of Greece I have never seen such a miserable lot! The native regiments make a much better appearance. Is it not reasonable to suppose that the Indians, too, will notice it? If the Moslems and Hindus will settle their differences, British rule will be seriously menaced.

A. S. Pereira, in the *Zukunft*, Berlin, explains at length how the monopolists are allowed to make use of the famine to enrich themselves, and warns the British Government that even the gentle Hindu will turn. Speaking of the corruption rampant in India, a writer in *The Saturday Review*, London, relates, among other interesting items, the following:

"Each village sends its rent to him at fixed dates, say twice a year, and pays besides the Government demand the sum of 2, 3, or 4 rupees, according to the size of the village, as a douceur, knowing that if it is not paid trouble of some sort will come on the village from the said official or his myrmidons, whose power is very great. As there are often 3,000 villages or more in such subdivisions, the illicit profits are considerable, and the officer shares them with his three or four office subordinates to keep them quiet. Should any village attempt to kick against this exaction, the following dodge is resorted to: The subordinate officer who receives the money has always two or more counterfeit rupees about his person; these rupees he cleverly substitutes for others in the rent cash, and then in the usual process of counting and testing the money of course detects the bad rupees. Should the individual paying in the money declare his money was all good and attempt to remonstrate, he is at once threatened with being handed over to the police for trying to pass counterfeit coin, and he, like a wise man, promptly pays up to replace the bad rupees. This goes on in the same premises where the police also are located, and is a custom well known to all of them; they see large sums netted thus with no risk at all—is it therefore any wonder that the police try to imitate their example?"

Despite the denials in the House of Parliament and the press, there is strong evidence that the soldiers sent to assist the plague commissioners in Poona pulled native women into the streets, where they stripped them for inspection. Mr. Rand, one of the plague commissioners, promised, in a letter, "that the practise of examination in the streets should be discontinued." *The Champion*, Bombay, would like to know "what kind of examination this is." Plague suspects, released after an inspection at the hospitals, found their homes plundered and their household goods destroyed. Another cause of complaint is the severity with which editors of native papers are treated, banishment for life and long-term sentences having been inflicted upon writers and publishers who criticize the Government. But the most dangerous of all is the hatred of the warlike Moslems, who can not forgive England that she has sought to encompass the downfall of Turkey during late years.—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE city of Berlin has closed its annual accounts with a surplus of over $2,000,000. This money has been saved by the different departments, most of which spent far less than had been granted to them. The board of aldermen voted, without discussion, the sum of $250,000 as Berlin's contribution to the relief fund which is being raised throughout Germany for the districts suffering from the late inundations.

THE Hottentots in German South Africa have to be punished severely by the German troops stationed there for their robberies committed upon British soil. Extreme poverty has caused them to attack their neighbors, for as everywhere in South Africa the cattle have succumbed to the dreaded rinderpest. One farmer in Namaqualand has only 12 head of cattle left out of a herd of 400. Another has only 5 out of 280. The rich chieftain Lapelia has lost over 2,000.

A REMARKABLE trial busied the criminal court of Tunis recently. An Italian girl of good family, and engaged to a Sicilian, listened to the sweet nothings which a stranger, a Prince Belmonte, whispered into her ear, and married him. He took her to Tunis, where he spent her money, and tried to force her into a life of shame. Worst of all, she found that he was not a prince, but an escaped criminal, and married before. Then her Sicilian lover, faithful as ever, appeared on the scene. He swore to revenge her, dogged the steps of the pseudo-prince, and cut his head off, which he sent to the outraged woman. He was sentenced to hard labor for life. The woman escaped, as it could not be proven that she had urged her lover to commit his bloody deed.

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BUSINESS SITUATION.

Bradstreet's finds business increasing beyond expectation in spite of unseasonable weather, and yellow fever in Gulf States. The end of the bituminous coal strike is a favorable feature. Bank-clearings for six days ending September 16 aggregate $1,386,000,000, the largest week's total since January, 1893, one of the largest boom totals ever reported. The stock market reacted on Monday, but on Tuesday was higher than ever. *Dun's Review* says:

"The starting of many mines and works, the enormous exports of wheat and corn, the favorable news as to those crops and cotton, the fall in sterling exchange, and the report showing that gold imports began in August, exceeding exports by $2,390,587, while merchandise exports exceeded imports by $40,953,753, have all contributed to forward the improvement in business. The replenishment of stocks can not be half finished, tho some who could see no sign of improvement a few weeks ago are now finding it so vast and rapid that they fear reaction. But consumers as well as dealers have also to supply themselves after years of enforced economy, and while their power to purchase is increasing every day, and their actual buying at retail, reasons for apprehension are not urgent. When the tide rises after four years of depression it does not fall again after four weeks."

Features of the Week.—"The center of improvement is Chicago, which furnishes the most favorable trade report within five years. Advices from Kansas City, Omaha, St. Paul, and St. Louis also reflect activity in demand among jobbers and wholesalers. There is a temporary stimulus to business at Savannah, owing to the withdrawal of competition from merchants at towns now cut off by the fever quarantine. Chattanooga, Memphis, Atlanta, Augusta, Galveston, and even St. Louis anticipate a temporary falling-off in business, owing to the interruption to traffic in the Gulf States and adjoining territory. The practical settlement of the bituminous coal-strike, a further rising tide of demand for iron and steel products, the withdrawal from the market of some manufacturers of woolen goods, activity generally among manufacturers of woolens, extraordinarily large bank clearings, and reports that mercantile collections have improved, constitute the features of the week."—*Bradstreet's, September 18.*

Prices: Decline in Cereals.—"Prices for thirty of the more important staples continue to show pronounced strength, only seven being lower than last week—wheat, wheat flour, Indian corn, lard, and pork, the result of a natural reaction from preceding advances, lead and cotton, which has begun to move more freely. Unchanged prices are reported for copper, coal, print cloths, leather, hides, oats, and for wool, which remains very strong, with an upward tendency. Higher prices are given for sugar, rice, coffee, butter, eggs, potatoes, and canned goods among food products, for woolen goods for spring delivery, for some grades of men's shoes, whisky, white and yellow pine lumber, iron and steel bars, Southern and Bessemer pig iron, and for steel billets."—*Bradstreet's, September 18.*

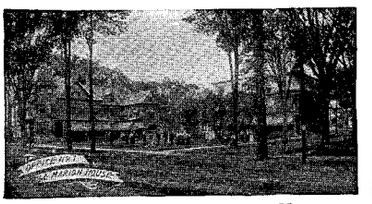
"The wheat market has declined over 5 cents on account of crop reports which promise larger prosperity, and corn and cotton are both a little lower for like reasons. Yet estimates of the highest financial authorities regarding requirements from this country are not smaller, but larger than before, while better prospects in Argentina, Australia, and India hold out no promise of large European supplies, or of any until winter is about over. Atlantic exports of wheat, flour included, are more than double last year's each week, and in two weeks 8,820,313 bushels against 4,107,721 last year, and of corn 7,095,363 bushels against 3,087,826 last year. From the Pacific coast wheat is also moving largely, 22 cargoes from San Francisco this month, and over 548,985 bushels in seven days from Portland. Corn declined over 3 cents with growing belief that the yield will surpass estimates. Cotton was depressed from 7½ to 7 cents, with favorable news of yield, altho the mills are now consuming with great rapidity."—*Dun's Review, September 18.*

Canadian Trade.—"Toronto merchants report the largest distribution of general merchandise within a week for ten years and free deliveries of grain, good prices for which continue to stimulate interior buying. Considerable activity marks the merchandise movement at Montreal also, and at Halifax there is a fairly good trade in general lines. Reports from Newfoundland are not encouraging, the Labrador fisheries being a failure. Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, and St. John, N. B., amount to $26,852,000 this week, compared with $22,164,000 last week, and with $20,706,000 in the week a year ago. There are 36 business failures reported from the Canadian Dominion this week, against 39 last week, and 41 in each of the corresponding weeks in 1896 and in 1895. [*Dun's Review:* 40 to 32 last year]"—*Bradstreet's, September 18.*

The Bemis Sanitarium.

The home of the

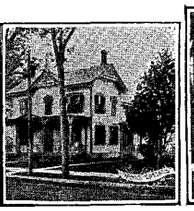
Original Absorption Treatment.



OFFICE NO. 1 AND MARION HOUSE.

THE BEMIS PLACE.

MARION COTTAGE



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Current Events.

Monday, September 13.

President McKinley returns to Washington. . . . The funeral of twelve strikers shot by deputy sheriffs takes place at Hazleton, Pa. . . . Dr. Guiteras, government expert, reports a case of yellow fever at Mobile, Ala. . . . Seth Low's acceptance of the nomination by the Citizen's Union of New York for mayor is made public.

It is said that British forces in India are confronted by 47,000 Afridis and Orakzais near Khawki valley. . . . Agricultural experts declare the present harvest in Ireland the worst since 1879 and famine certain. . . . United States Minister Woodford is received by the Queen Regent of Spain.

Tuesday, September 14.

The President's cabinet discusses the Union Pacific question, relief for Klondike prospectors, and harbor facilities at San Pedro, Cal. . . . Striking miners at Lattimer, Pa., formulate demands on the mine superintendent; the strike spreads in the Hazleton region. . . . Judge Cox of the supreme court of the District of Columbia dismisses the complaint of J. G. Woods against the Postmaster-General, holding that the enforcement of the civil-service order against removal is a matter solely in the hands of President and cabinet. . . . Dr. E. B. Andrews withdraws his resignation as president of Brown University. . . . Senator Wellington resigns the chairmanship of the Maryland Republican state committee. . . . The second annual congress of colored women meets in Nashville.

Señor Sagasta gives his views on the spreading of the Cuban insurrection. . . . The thirteenth centenary of the landing of St. Augustine in England is celebrated on the Isle of Thanet.

Wednesday, September 15.

Maryland Republicans hold an adjourned state convention and elect state Senator Scott to succeed Mr. Wellington as state chairman. . . . The New York Democratic state committee nominates Alton B. Parker for chief justice of the court of appeals, expels H. D. Purroy from the committee, and takes no action in regard to the Chicago platform. . . . Five men accused of burglary are lynched at Versailles, Ind. . . . Seven cases of yellow fever cause a panic at Jackson, Miss. . . . Ex-Postmaster General Wilson is installed as president of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

A number of British forts on the frontier of India are relieved by troops. . . . Spain is preparing to send 5,000 more troops to Cuba.

Thursday, September 16.

Miners return to work in Pittsburg and St. Louis bituminous districts; the strike in the anthracite region is extending. . . . The Tennessee state committee of the National Democracy decides to maintain its organization. . . . The Illinois Federation of Labor includes free coinage in its platform. .

The Bank of England formally announces the decision to hold one fifth of the bullion held against its note issue in silver. . . . Presidential election returns in Venezuela show large majorities for General Andrade, brother of the former Venezuelan minister to the United States. . . . An attempt is made to stab President Diaz of Mexico. . . . Chinese natives near Yaoping subject Catholic missionaries to persecution.

Friday, September 17.

The cabinet decides to send troops to St. Michaels, Alaska. . . . The strike situation at Hazleton is unchanged. . . . The company store at Bloomsburg, N. M., owned by the Raton Coal Co., is blown up by gunpowder.

The London *Times* publishes Mr. Chamberlain's reply to Secretary Sherman's seal letter. . . . Severe fighting is reported on the Afghan frontier. . . . The Continental press criticizes the Bank of England for its plan of using silver bullion as reserve. . . . Arnulfo Arroya, who attacked President Diaz of Mexico, is lynched.

Saturday, September 18.

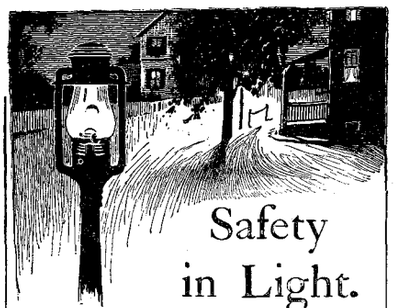
President McKinley makes a number of appointments. . . . Governor McLaurin of Mississippi orders out troops to prevent further tearing up of railroad tracks by mobs panic-stricken on account of yellow fever. . . . New York State Republican committee nominate Judge W. J. Wallace for chief judge of the court of appeals and issue an address. . . . Government-expert S. C. Dunham reports on the hardships of the journey to Klondike. . . . Massachusetts Populists declare for free coinage and against "government by injunction," fusionists in control. . . . It is reported that over 5,000 persons attend the Democratic "silver camp-meeting" at Springfield, Ohio. . . . Mayor P. J. Gleason of Long Island City is nominated for mayor of Greater New York by a mass-meeting. . . . Henry W. Sage, benefactor of Cornell University, dies in Ithaca, N. Y. . . . Star Pointer makes a world's race record at Indianapolis, 2.01.

The British reverse in India causes a fear that the whole Afghan border will be in arms; heavy reinforcements of artillery are to be sent from England. . . . The treaty of peace between Turkey and Greece is signed at Constantinople. . . . A son is born to the Duchess of Marlborough in London. . . . A son is born to Mrs. Nansen, wife of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Arctic explorer. . . . The twenty-fifth anniversary of King Oscar's accession to the throne of Sweden and Norway is celebrated in Stockholm.

Sunday, September 19.

Consul-General Lee, it is said, will return to Havana for the Administration. . . . Six new cases of yellow fever are reported at New Orleans.

The treaty of peace is signed between the Government and the insurgents in Uruguay. . . . The price of food is rising steadily in Spain owing to depreciation of the currency.



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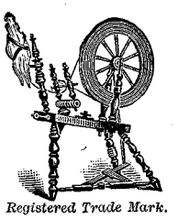

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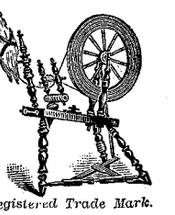

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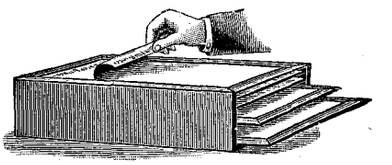

simple, cheap, effective—will make 100 copies from pen-written original, or 75 copies from typewriter. No washing required. Price, $3 to $10. Send for circulars, and sample of work.

Look out for imitations. Make sure that you get the *Lawton Simplex*. Agents wanted.

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Use Horsford's Acid Phosphate.

Dr. C. H. S. DAVIS, Meriden, Conn., says: "I have used it as a pleasant and cooling drink in fevers, and have been very much pleased."

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For the increasing volume of California travel, Messrs. Raymond & Whitcomb's series of winter tours provides comforts and luxuries not otherwise attainable. Each party travels on special-time schedules and in an elegant palace vestibuled train. Dining-cars are employed in every instance. In California the passenger secures reduced hotel rates, and can exercise his own choice as to time and place of sojourn and the route and time of return. The tickets are good for use independently on any train until next July. Raymond & Whitcomb, 31 East Fourteenth Street, Lincoln Building, New York, will send a descriptive book to any applicant.

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Have You Asthma or Hay-Fever?

Medical Science at last reports a positive cure for Asthma and Hay-fever in the wonderful Kola Plant, a new botanical discovery found on the Congo River, West Africa. Its cures are really marvelous. Rev. J. L. Combs, of Martinsburg, West Va., writes that it cured him of Asthma of thirty years' standing, and Hon. L. G. Clute, of Greeley, Iowa, testifies that for three years he had to sleep propped up in a chair in Hay-fever season, being unable to lie down night or day. The Kola Plant cured him at once. Mr. Alfred C. Lewis, editor of the *Farmer's Magazine*, was also cured when he could not lie down for fear of choking, being always worse in Hay-fever season. Others of our readers give similar testimony, proving it truly a wonderful remedy. If you suffer from Asthma or Hay-fever we advise you to send your address to the Kola Importing Co., 1164 Broadway, New York, who to prove its power will send a Large Case by mail free to every reader of THE LITERARY DIGEST who needs it. All they ask in return is that when cured yourself you will tell your neighbors about it. It costs you nothing and you should surely try it.

PERSONALS.

KING OSCAR II. of Sweden and Norway is to be made a "doctor quadruplex" of the University of Vienna on September 18, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the throne—receiving the honorary degree of doctor from each of the four faculties of the university, theology, law, medicine, and philosophy. It will be the first time that Vienna has granted the four degrees at once to the same person, and special permission had to be obtained from Emperor Francis Joseph. It is asserted that the only other occasion on which a university has granted its four degrees at once was when Jena honored Goethe in 1825, at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in Weimar.

SINGULAR STORY OF W. H. SEWARD.—A distinguished party of statesmen and diplomats made in August of 1863 a visit to Cooperstown, in this State. Among them were William H. Seward, Secretary of State, and the following foreign ministers: Lord Lyons, of England; Baron Gerolt, of Russia; Mr. Tassara, of Spain; Baron Stroekel, of Russia; Mr. Mercier, of France; Mr. Molina, of Nicaragua, together with the representatives of Italy, Sweden, and Chili, and several secretaries and attachés of the different legations. So far as could be ascertained, the visit was simply for pleasure and rest, but there were suspicions of a mysterious conference on some grave affair of international polity. *The Freeman's Journal*, of Cooperstown, now says that there was a secret purpose in this gathering, but that it was of domestic, not foreign, import, and that the diplomats from abroad knew nothing about it, for they had been invited to accompany Secretary Seward as a means of concealing his real errand. That errand, declares *The Freeman's Journal*, was to prevent the success of a rumored application by foes of the Union to a district judge in one of the border States for a decision against the constitutionality of a new draft of troops. President Lincoln had heard of such a plan and feared the effect of such a decision. He consulted with Seward, and the latter said that Justice Samuel Nelson, of New York, was the only man who could influence the judge to whom the application was to be made. "See him immediately," said the President. Seward foresaw that he would be watched both by Northern newspaper men and rebel spies, and feared that some of them might hit upon the truth. So he devised the ruse of taking a lot of noted foreigners to the place of his meeting with Judge Nelson. The plan worked perfectly, and amid a series of receptions and picnics the matter was quietly laid before the justice, who briefly said: "The application about to be made should be denied, as a matter of law and public policy, and I will write my friend, Judge ——, a strong letter on the subject." This he did and that ended the matter.—*The Times. New York.*

THE following story was told on the late Speaker Crisp in Washington the other day: It was Election Day, and the Republicans had put up a strong fight. Prominent in their ranks was an old darky, Tom. All day long he hovered around the polls and in an impromptu procession carried a transparency. In the evening Mr. Crisp was standing in front of his hotel, when old Tom sidled bashfully up and requested the present of a dollar. "What, Tom," said Mr. Crisp, "you have the audacity to come here and ask me for a dollar after working hard against me all day?" "Well, but, Massa Chawles, I'se known you eber since you was so high, and I suttinly do need a dollar bad." "Tom," said Mr. Crisp, looking sternly at him, "didn't you cast your vote against me today?" Tom looked cast down for a moment. "Das'so, das'so, Massa Crisp," but, brightening up with an inspiration, "you know it gwine to count foh you, ennyhow. Please gimme dat dollah, Massa Chawles."—*The Tribune, New York.*

A LITTLE LIGHT

in the right place is of great benefit. For the first time in history, under the teachings of modern chemistry and physiology, justice is done to the wonderful food properties of wheat, by preserving them all in the Fine Flour of the Entire Wheat as manufactured by the Franklin Mills. It is the cheapest flour ever known, as it will make more pounds of bread from the same weight of flour, and give more food value *for the same money than any flour in the world.*

The genuine made only by the
FRANKLIN MILLS CO., LOCKPORT, N. Y.
If your grocer does not keep it, send us his name and your order—we will see that you are supplied

NEW MEDICAL DISCOVERY.

A Positive Cure for Dyspepsia.

This may read as though we were putting it a little strong because it is generally thought by the majority of people that Dyspepsia in its chronic form is incurable, or practically so. But we have long since shown that Dyspepsia is curable, nor is it such a difficult matter as at first appears.

The trouble with Dyspeptics is that they are continually dieting, starving themselves, or going to opposite extremes, or else deluging the already over-burdened stomach with "bitters," "after-dinner pills," etc., which invariably increase the difficulty even in some cases they do give a slight temporary relief. Such treatment of the stomach simply makes matters worse. What the stomach wants is a rest. Now how can the stomach become rested, recuperated, and at the same time the body nourished and sustained?

This is the great secret and this is also the secret of the uniform success of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. This is a comparatively new remedy, but its success and popularity leave no doubt as to its merits.

The Tablets will digest the food anyway, regardless of condition of stomach.

The sufferer from Dyspepsia according to directions is to eat an abundance of good, wholesome food and use the tablets before and after each meal, and the result will be that the food will be digested no matter how bad your dyspepsia may be, because, as before stated, the tablets will digest the food even if the stomach is wholly inactive. To illustrate our meaning plainly, if you take 1,800 grains of meat, eggs or ordinary food and place it in a temperature of 98 degrees, and put it with one of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets it will digest the meat or eggs almost as perfectly as if the meat was enclosed within the stomach.

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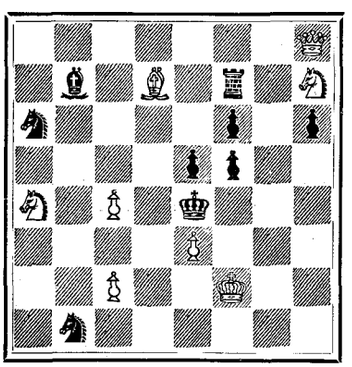
Problem 223.

BY G. ENGEL.

From *Berliner Schachzeitung.*

Black—Nine Pieces.

K on K 5; B on Q Kt 2; Kts on Q Kt 8, Q R 3; R on K B 2; Ps on K 4, K B 3 and 4, K R 3.



White—Eight Pieces.

K on K B 2; Q on K R 8; B on Q 7; Kts on K R 7, Q R 5; Ps on K 3, Q B 2 and 4.

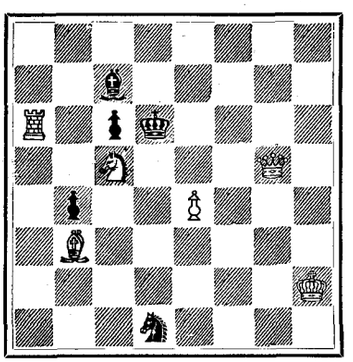
White mates in two moves.

Problem 224.

BY PROF. J. BERGER.

Black—Five Pieces.

K on Q 3; B on Q B 2; Kt on Q 8; Ps on Q B 3, Q Kt 5.



White –Six Pieces.

K on K R 2; Q on K Kt 5; B on Q Kt 3; Kt on Q B 4; R on Q R 6; P on K 4.

White mates in three moves.

Solution of Problems.

No. 218.

(Place Black Kt on Q B 8 instead of K Kt 8).

1. B—Kt 7	2. Kt-B 6 dbl. ch	3. Q—B 2, mate
K—B 6	K moves	
1.	2. Kt—B 6 ch	3. Q mates
R x B	K moves	
	2.	3. Q—K 5, mate
	Q x Kt	
1.	2. Kt x R dbl ch	3. Q or B mates
R—B 6 ch	K—K 6 must	
1.	2. Kt—Q 3 dis ch	3. Q x Q, mate
P-B 6 dis. ch.	K—B 5	

There are other variations, but those given above are sufficient to indicate the others.

Correct solution received from M. W. H., University of Virginia; W. G. Donnan, Independence, Ia.; the Rev. I. W. Bieber, Bethlehem, Pa.; H. V. Fitch, Omaha; George Patterson, Winnipeg, Can.; Henry P. Lason, Tyndall, S. D.; N. Hald, Dannebrog, Nebr.; A. P. Downs, New York city; Paul D. Crow, Buffalo.

No. 220.

1. Q—Q sq	2. Q—Q 4 ch	3. Q x P, mate
K x Kt	K—K 3 must	
1.	2. B—Q 5 ch	3. P—B 4, mate
B x Q	K x Kt must	
1.	2. Q—Q 3 ch	3. Q—B 5, mate
Kt-Kt 4 or B 7	K x Kt must	
1.	2. Q x Kt ch	3. Q—B 5, mate
Kt—B 6	K x Kt must	
1.	2. Q x Kt ch	3. B—Q 4, mate
Kt x P	K x Kt must	
1.	2. Q—Q 5 ch	3. B x B, mate
P x Kt	B x Q must	

Correct solution received from M. W. H., W. G. Donnan, the Rev. I. W. Bieber, H. V. Fitch, Nelson Hald, George Patterson, the Rev. J. A. Younkins, Natrona, Pa.; F. S. Ferguson, Birmingham, Ala.; F. L. Hitchcock, Scranton, Pa.; O. B. Joyful; the Rev. Dr. W. J. Thorpe, New York city; V. Brent, New Orleans; W. J. B., Bethlehem, Pa.; W. B. Crosby, Plainfield, N. J.; C. A. J. Walker, Cincinnati.

Comments: "A very fine problem"—M. W. H. "A splendid problem"—W. G. D. "Quite a scheme"—the Rev. I. W. B. "Remarkably prolific in combinations"—the Rev. J. A. Y. "A very interesting problem"—F. S. F. "A dandy"—F. L. H.

H. P. Layson, Dr. J. A. Maryson, New York city; Dr. W. S. Frick, Philadelphia; and the Rev. W. W. E., Orlando, Fla., were successful with 219.

The Berlin Chess Tournament.

This tournament began on Monday, September 13, with twenty players. While those players are the best in the countries represented, yet the four great stars—Lasker, Steinitz, Pillsbury, and Tarrasch—are not among them.

The following is a list of the contestants with the score at the time of going to press:

Players.	*Won.*	*Lost.*	*Players.*	*Won.*	*Lost.*
Alapin.....	3½	2½	Marco	5	1
Albin.....	2	4	Metger.....	2½	2½
Bardeleben...	½	5½	Schiffers.....	3	3
Blackburne ..	5	1	Suechting....	2½	3½
Burn.....	2	3	Schlechter....	3	3
Caro	3½	2½	Teichmann ..	3	3
Cohn.....	2	4	Tschigorin...	3½	2½
Charousek....	2	4	Walbrodt	4	2
Englisch.....	4	2	Winawer.....	3	3
Janowski.....	4½	1½	Zinki	½	5½

A New Gambit.

A new gambit has recently been invented by Max Dinge. A game illustrating it is given below:

VIENNA OPENING.

The Dinge Gambit.

MAX DINGE. *White.*	C. A. WALBRODT. *Black.*	MAX DINGE. *White.*	C. A. WALBRODT. *Black.*
1 P—K 4	P—K 4	14 Kt—B 7 ch	K—Q sq
2 Kt—Q B 3	Kt—Q B 3	15 B x P (e)	B x P (f)
3 P—B 4	P x P	16 Kt-K 6 ch	K-K sq (h)
4 Kt- B 4	P—K Kt 4	17 Kt-B 7 ch	K x R
5 P—Q 5	P—Kt 5	(g)	
6 P—Q (a)	P x Kt	18 B—Q 5 ch	K—Kt 2
7 B x P	P x P	19 Kt-K 8 ch	K—R 3
8 B x P	Q Kt—K 2	20 Q—Q 2 ch	K—R 4 (i)
9 P—Q 6 (b)	P x P	21 B—B 3 ch	K—R 5
10 B x Q P	Kt—Kt 3	22 Q—B 2 ch	K—Kt 4
11 R—K B sq	Q—Kt 3	23 Q-Kt 2 ch	K—R 3
(c)	(d)	24 Q—R 3 ch	K—Kt 4
12 P—K 5	B—Kt 2	25 Q-Kt 4 ch	
13 Kt—Q 5	Q x P	and mates next move.	

Notes from The Evening Post, New York.

(a) This constitutes the new gambit, which has been repeatedly adopted with good success by its inventor.

(b) Probably the best continuation.

(c) Obviously he can not castle on account of .., Q—Kt 3 ch.

(d) 12 .., Q—K 6 ch, forcing the exchange of Queens, was simplest and best.

(e) A fine combination.

(f) We would prefer to place the Queen to better advantage by Q—B 6 ch.

(g) Pretty play, tho not altogether sound.

(h) 17 .., K—Q sq; 18 Kt—K 6 would draw the game.

(i) A fatal error. After 20 .., Kt—B 5, his game would have been safe.

A Modern Evans.

Comments by Reichelm in The Times, Philadelphia.

In this age of grubbing for Pawns and heavy finessing for position, it is quite a treat to come across an Evans Gambit. It was contested in the Hungarian correspondence tournament between Maroczy and Kozmata.

MAROCZY. *White.*	KOZMATA. *Black.*
1 P—K 4	P—K 4
2 K Kt—B 3	Q Kt—B 3
3 B—B 4	B—B 4
4 P—Q Kt 4	B x Kt P

Lasker recommends withdrawing the Bishop to Knight's third as the best practical reply.

5 P—B 3	B—R 4
6 P—Q 4	P x P
7 Castles	P—Q 3
8 P x P	Kt—B 3

A theoretical mistake. B—Kt 3 was proper.

9 P—K 5	P x P
10 Q—Kt 3	Castles
11 P x P	Kt—K Kt 5
12 B—R 3	Kt—K 2
13 Kt—B 3	B x Kt
14 Q x B	P—Q Kt 3
15 Q R—Q 1	Q—K 1
16 Kt—Kt 5	Kt—R 3
17 B—Q 3	P—Q B 4

Black's position is bad. He must submit to loss.

18 Kt x R P	B—K 3
19 Kt x R	K x Kt
20 B—K 4	R—Q B 1
21 R—Q 2	Kt—B 3
22 K R—Q 1	P—Kt 3
23 R—Q 6	K—Kt 2
24 B x Kt	R x B
25 Q—B 3	R x R

In the age of Morphy this would have been considered a very tame affair, but in these times we must put up with whatever brilliancy we may get.

26 P x R	Q—Q 2
27 B—Kt 2 ch	P in

If King moves instead the White follows with Q—B 6, menacing mate.

28 Q x P ch	K—Kt 1
29 Q x P ch	K—B 1
30 Q x Kt ch and wins.	

The Steinitz Testimonial.

The Metropolitan Chess-club, of New York city, has published the following announcement:

"As previously announced, the Metropolitan Chess-Club has decided to take the initiative toward creating a 'Steinitz Testimonial Fund,' which latter, it is hoped, will assume ample proportions, so as to be of material benefit to the grand old master in his declining years.

"In furtherance of this idea, a reception and entertainment has been arranged to take place on October 16, at the Central Opera-House.

"We hope and trust that the Chess world at large, and more especially all Chess-players of New York and its vicinity, will gladly and generously respond, and thereby prove that devotees of the noble game are not unthankful, as has occasionally been claimed, but, on the contrary, are only too glad to get an opportunity to show their appreciation of real merit, their gratitude toward the foremost master, the great teacher of our noble game.

"Tickets are now ready for distribution. Their sale should be almost unlimited, appealing, as they do, not merely to those who intend to be present at the occasion, but to all those, whose number is legion, that are willing and glad to swell the Steinitz fund. There are others, not Chess-players, with whom the name of Steinitz has a sterling ring, those who are willing to admit the civilizing influence of Chess. To these we appeal as well, to make our enterprise a grand success.

"There is no other parallel movement on foot which involves the cooperation of the other and larger clubs contemplating the assistance of our entire broad country. However, the project is still in its infancy, and nothing definite ready for publication has been as yet arranged.

"All communications and requests for tickets should be addressed to Metropolitan Chess-Club, Central Opera-House, Sixty-Seventh Street and Third Avenue, New York city."

William Steinitz, at sixty-one years of age, is one of the greatest Chess-masters in the world. He has a record which has never been equaled in the history of Chess: for twenty-six years he was the Champion of the World. Besides this fact, Mr. Steinitz is one of the most distinguished Chess-analysts of the age, and has done as much, possibly more, than any other man to further the interest in the Royal Game.

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